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[Docket No. 70-1257]

Finding of No Significant Impact; Renewal of Materials License No. SNM-1227 Advanced Nuclear Fuels Corp.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the renewal of Materials License No. SNM-1227 for the continued operation of the Advanced Nuclear Fuels Corporation (ANF) fuel fabrication facility at Richland, Washington.

Summary of the Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is the renewal of the license which allows ANF to continue operating the fuel fabrication facility, including a new incinerator.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The ANF facility is one of several industrial facilites dedicated to the fabrication of fuel elements for light-water reactors. Although the demand for nuclear reactors has declined, there is a continuing demand to meet the needs for operating reactors. Because ANF is a supplier of fuel for reactors, denial of the license renewal would necessitate expansion of similar activities at another existing fuel fabrication facility or the construction and operation of a new plant. Although denying the renewal of the SNM license for ANF is an alternative available to the NRC, it would be considered only if issues of public health and safety cannot be resolved.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The radiological impacts of the ANF facility were assessed by calculating the maximum dose to the individual living at the nearest residence and to the local population living within a 80-km (50 mile) radius of the plant site. Effluent release data was used to estimate the 50-year dose commitment to the maximally exposed individual living at the nearest residence; the committed doses are: whole body 1.4×10^{-4} mrem; bone 7.1×10^{-4} mrem; and lung 3.3×10^{-3} mrem. The doses are well below the environmental radiation dose limits established by the Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 190). The collective whole-body dose to the population within a 80-km (50 mile) radius of the plant is 4.8×10^{-3} man-rem which is only about 1.4×10^{-5} percent of the population dose of 33,750 man-rem resulting from the natural background radiation dose in the area. Liquid effluents are discharged to the Richland Municipal Sewer and are considered minor. Therefore, the staff concludes that there will be no significant impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

One alternative would be to deny the renewal application. This would result in the facility shutting down. Although denial is an alternative available to the Commission, it would be considered only if significant issues of public health and safety could not be resolved.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In addition to reviewing the applicant's request, the staff contacted the Department of Ecology and the Air Pollution Control Authority in the State of Washington.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has prepared an Environmental Assessment related to the license renewal of Materials License No. SNM-1227. On the basis of this assessment, the Commission has concluded that environmental impacts created by the proposed licensing action would not be significant and do not warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Accordingly, it has been determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

The Environmental Assessment for the proposed action, on which this Finding of No Significant Impact is based, relied on the following documents: (1) Supplement to Applicant's Environmental Report, September 1986, (2) Revised Application for Renewal, July 1987 submitted by letter dated August 7, 1987, and (3) Responses to NRC questions, April 30, and May 18, 1987.

This Environmental Assessment and the above documents related to this proposed action are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC. Copies of the Environmental Assessment may be obtained by calling (301) 427-4510 or by writing to the Fuel Cycle Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Silver Spring, Maryland, this 2nd day of September 1987.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Leland C. Rouse, Chief,

Fuel Cycle Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS.

[FR Doc. 87-20664 Field 9-8-87;8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M