OPEN MEETING REPORT

Date: November 28, 2007

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Place: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
One White Flint North Building, Room O-3 B4
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Purpose: To discuss decommissioning status of the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) site and discuss Dairyland Power Cooperative's (DPC's) plans for dry cask storage at the site.

Attendees: See Attachment A

Discussion:

The NRC Project Manager opened the meeting. The licensee (DPC) and its consultants (Sargent & Lundy and TriVis) presented background information about the LACBWR site and a summary of the reactor pressure vessel removal, which occurred in Spring 2007. DPC presented information on the overall decommissioning project at the LACBWR site, including schedule and funding. DPC currently plans to start work on a License Termination Plan shortly after completion of the dry cask storage project, expected in the 2011-2012 timeframe.

The licensee presented its plans for dry cask storage. DPC is currently in a planning phase (Phase I) for the dry cask storage project. During this planning phase, DPC and its consultants conducted a study to select a site for an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) that would meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72. Three potential ISFSI sites were evaluated against various factors, including radiological assessment, geotechnical characteristics, interface with Genoa site and the coal plant, natural phenomena, hazards evaluation, necessary site development, security requirements, cask transport path, cost, and aesthetics. DPC would need to establish a new protected area for the proposed ISFSI site. The licensee noted that the LACBWR ISFSI would probably consist of 5-6 casks.

The licensee completed a gap analysis to identify what additional elements were needed for the LACBWR quality assurance program to meet the quality assurance requirements in 10 CFR Parts 71 and 72 and industry standards. The licensee updated its quality assurance program and developed a quality assurance project plan for the dry cask storage project.

DPC conducted a plant impact assessment to determine what reactor building modifications are needed to move the spent fuel from the spent fuel pool (located in the reactor building) to the storage casks. Because the LACBWR spent fuel pool is too small to fit a spent fuel canister for loading, the former reactor pressure vessel area will be used as a cask pool, where the fuel canisters will be loaded.

Enclosure

The licensee is currently working on procurement of a cask system and plans to award a contract to a cask vendor by the end of 2007. The licensee has also developed an operation strategy and a licensing strategy for dry cask storage. DPC is currently planning to use a general license, per 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart K.

After DPC completes Phase I of the project, it will move to an engineering and licensing phase (Phase II). During Phase II, the licensee will work on a design for the ISFSI and designs for the reactor building modifications that will be needed. The licensee will also complete evaluations to determine if the reactor building modifications can be made without obtaining a license amendment, per 10 CFR 50.59. The licensee will also submit a license amendment request for a technical specification change that it has identified will be needed. The licensee will also develop procedures related to cask handling and make any necessary modifications to existing LACBWR programs.

During Phase II, the cask vendor will obtain NRC approval for any modifications needed to the cask Certificate of Compliance (CoC) to accommodate the LACBWR fuel. The licensee expects to conduct Phase II during the 2008-2009 timeframe. NRC staff from the Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation noted that the licensee should include at least 18 months in its schedule for the cask CoC amendment. The staff also informed the licensee that NRC reviews of cask CoC amendment requests are prioritized based on operational need, so a higher priority would be given to a review for an operating site. The NRC staff also noted that the cask vendor could include the LACBWR-specific change in an amendment request that includes several other requested changes or complex changes, which may require additional NRC review time.

Phase III of the project will be the operations and construction phase, where DPC will construct the ISFSI, make modifications to the reactor building, conduct training for staff and contractors, complete the loading of the casks, and clean the spent fuel pool to retrieve any fuel fragments before sealing the last cask. A member of the public inquired about damaged fuel, and the licensee noted that it plans to conduct further characterization of the damaged fuel in 2008. The licensee expects to conduct Phase III during the 2009-2011 timeframe, with cask loading expected to begin in the third quarter of 2010.

Attachments:

A. Meeting Attendees
B. DPC Presentation Slides