The NRC Clearance Officer is Brenda Jo. Shelton, (301) 492-8132.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 17th day of June 1987.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William G. McDonald,

Director, Office of Administration and Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 87-15041 Filed 7-1-87; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 50-498]

Environmental Assessment and Findings of No Significant Impact; Houston Lighting and Power Co., et. al., South Texas Project, Unit No. 1

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an Exemption from a portion of the requirements of Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50 to the Houston Lighting and Power Company, acting for itself and for the City of San Antonio (acting by and through the City Public Service Board of San Antonio), Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas (the applicants). The Exemption would apply to the South Texas Project (STP) Unit 1 located in Matagorda County, Texas.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed action: Section III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J, 10 CFR Part 50, states that "Air locks open during periods when containment integrity is not required by the plant Technical Specifications shall be tested at the end of such periods at not less than P_a." By letter dated January 15, 1986, the applicant requested that the South Texas Project Unit 1 Technical Specifications be written to instead require an overall air lock leak rate test at P_a (37.5 psig) to be performed only "Upon completion of maintenance which has been performed on the air lock that could affect the air lock sealing capability" Otherwise, if an air lock is opened during periods when containment integrity is not required and no such maintenance has been performed, a door seal leak rate test (a less time-consuming test) must be performed. This requested exemption is consistent with the staff's position on the acceptable testing frequency necessary to demonstrate air lock sealing capability intended in Appendix J. The staff's current position is shown in the Standard Technical Specifications for Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactors (NUREG-0452, Rev. 4). Until Commission Rulemaking changes the current requirement in Appendix J, an exemption to the present regulation must be granted before the licensee can adopt the requested Technical Specification.

Need for Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because, based on experience at various plants, the staff found that literal compliance with Section III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J is not necessary to assure containment leaktightness. The requested exemption is in compliance with the staff's technical position and has been granted to many plants. Literal compliance with the regulation would lead to increased costs and occupational exposure.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(D)(ii) will assure air lock sealing capability and containment integrity; therefore, this exemption will not increase to greater than previously determined, the probability of accidents and post-accident radiological releases, nor otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They would not affect non-radiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Actions: The principal alternative to the proposed actions would be to deny the requested exemptions. This would result in increased costs and occupational exposure.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (NUREG-1171) for STP, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicants' request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this Exemption for STP, Units 1 and 2. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated January 15, 1986. This document, utilized in the NRC staff's technical evaluation of the exemption request, is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488. The staff's technical evaluation of the request was published in SER Supplement No. 3 and is available for inspection at both locations listed above.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 18th day of June 1987.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frank Schroeder,

Acting Director, Division of Reactor Projects—III, IV, V and Special Projects, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 87-15042 Filed 7-1-87; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 40-8857]

Final Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding a new Source and Byproduct Material License for Operation of Everest Minerals Corporation's Highland Site, Located in Converse County, Wyoming; Everest Minerals Corp.

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Final Finding of No Significant Impact.

1. Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is to issue a new source and byproduct material license authorizing Everest Minerals Corporation to operate the Highland insitu leach uranium recovery operation located in Converse County, Wyoming.

2. Reasons for Final Finding of No Significant Impact

An environmental assessment was prepared by the staff at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and issued by the Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV. The environmental assessment performed by the Commission's staff evaluated potential impacts on-site and off-site due to radiological releases that may occur during the course of the operation. Documents used in preparing the assessment included operational data from the research and development insitu leach operation, the licensee's application dated December 30, 1985,

and the Final Environmental Statement for Exxon Corporation (Everest's Highland site) prepared by the Commission staff dated November 1978. Based on the review of these documents, the Commission has determined that no significant impact will result from the proposed action.

The public was informed of the availability of this document by way of a May 12, 1987, Federal Register publication. The subsequent 30-day comment period expired on June 12, 1987. No public comments were received on the proposed action.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.33(e), the Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office, made the determination to issue a final finding of no significant impact in the Federal Register. Concurrent with this finding, the staff will issue a Source and Byproduct Material License SUA-1511 authorizing operation of Everest Minerals Corporation's Highland insitu leach uranium recovery operation located in Converse County, Wyoming.

This finding, together with the environmental assessment setting forth the basis for the finding, is available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Uranium Recovery Field Office located at 730 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado, and at the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 17 day of June, 1987.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Edward F. Hawkins,

Chief, Licensing Branch 1, Uranium Recovery Field Office, Region IV.

[FR Doc. 87-15043 Filed 7-1-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499]

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact; Houston Lighting and Power Co., et al., South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a Schedular Exemption from a portion of the requirements of General Design Criterion (GDC) 4 (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A) to the Houston Lighting and Power Company, acting for itself and for the City of San Antonio (acting by and through the City Public Service Board of San Antonio), Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas (the applicants). The Schedular Exemption would apply to the South Texas Project (STP) Unit 1 located in Matagorda County, Texas. The limited exemption would extend until the second refueling outage of the STP Unit 1 by which time the outcome of the Commission's consideration of the "leak-before-break" concept as applied beyond the main coolant loop piping, is expected to become apparent.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action: The Schedular Exemption would permit the applicants to not install pipe whip restraints and jet impingement shields and to not consider the dynamic effects associated with postulated pipe breaks in certain STP Units 1 and 2 piping systems, on the basis of advanced calculational methods for assuring that applied piping stresses would not result in rapidly propagating piping failure: i.e., pipe rupture.

Need for Proposed Action: The proposed Schedular Exemption is needed in order for the applicants not to consider the dynamic loading effects associated with the postulated full flow circumferential and longitudinal pipe ruptures in the pressurizer surge line and the accumulator injection lines. These dynamic loading effects include pipe whip, jet impingement, asymmetric pressurization transients and break associated dynamic transients in unbroken portions of the main loop and connected branch lines. Therefore, the applicants would not be required to install, for the time being, protective devices such as pipe whip restraints and jet impingement shields related to postulated break locations in the pressurizer surge line and the accumulator injection lines. Analysis shows that the pipe breaks, which these devices are designed to protect against, are extremely unlikely. On the other hand, the presence of these devices increases inservice inspection time in the containment and their elimination would lessen the occupational doses to workers and facilitate inservice inspections.

GDC 4 requires that structures, systems and components important to safety shall be appropriately protected against dynamic effects including the effects of discharging fluids that may result from equipment failures, up to and including a double-ended rupture of the largest pipe in the reactor coolant system (Definition of LOCA). In recent submittals the applicants have provided information to show by advanced fracture mechanics techniques that the detection of small flaws by either inservice inspection or leakage monitoring systems is assured long before flaws in the piping materials can grow to critical or unstable sizes which could lead to large break areas such as the double-ended guillotine break or its equivalent. The NRC staff has reviewed and accepted the applicants' conclusion. Therefore, the NRC staff agrees that double-ended guillotine break in the piping associated with the pressurizer surge line and the accumulator injection lines and their associated dynamic effects, need not be required as a design basis accident for pipe whip restraints and jet impingement shields; i.e., the restraints and jet shields are not needed. Accordingly, the NRC staff agrees that a partial exemption from GDC 4 is appropriate. However, the Commission has not yet finalized action on the staff recommendation which applies this methodology beyond the main coolant loop.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed Schedular Exemption would not affect the environmental impact of the facility. No credit is given for the restraints and shields to be eliminated in calculating accident doses to the environment. While the jet impingement barriers and pipe whip restraints would minimize the damage from jet forces and whipping from a broken pipe, the calculated limitation on stresses required to support this Schedular Exemption assures that the probability of pipe breaks which could give rise to such forces are extremely small; thus, the pipe whip restraints and jet impingement shields would have no significant effect on the overall plant accident risk.

The Schedular Exemption does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Likewise, the relief granted does not affect non-radiological plant effluents, and has no other environmental impact. The elimination of the pipe whip restraints and jet impingement shields would tend to lessen the occupational dose to workers inside containment. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the Schedular Exemption.

The proposed Schedular Exemption involves design features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect plant non-radioactive effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no non-radiological impacts associated with this proposed Schedular Exemption.

Since we have concluded that there are no measurable negative environmental impacts associated with this Schedular Exemption, any alternatives would not provide any significant additional protection of the