



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 11 1991

DOCKET NO: 70-1113
LICENSEE: General Electric (GE)
Wilmington, North Carolina
SUBJECT: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR AMENDMENT REQUEST
DATED DECEMBER 3, 1990

By letter dated December 3, 1990, GE requested an amendment to License No. SNM-1097 to authorize operation of the Uranium Recovery From Lagoon Sludge (URLS) project facility. The purpose of the URLS facility is to recover uranium from the various sludges that have accumulated in storage lagoons, basins, and pits from the treatment of the waste streams generated at GE. GE had authorization for a test program for recovery of uranium from nitrate lagoon sludge. The current amendment request will expand that authorization. Favorable environmental impacts are expected from operation of the URLS by the elimination of uranium inventory from the lagoons, basins, and pits.

GE has obtained an air permit from North Carolina. The emissions from the URLS process will be similar to emissions from current operations and will be small in proportion to the current emissions. The increase in releases of hydrogen fluoride is 0.0009 pounds per hour compared to current releases of 0.254 pounds per hour. The total annual site uranium effluent for all stacks is approximately 53.4 grams of U. The URLS operation is estimated to increase releases by 0.9 grams uranium per year. Air pollution control devices on the URLS process are a wet scrubber and bank of six HEPA filters. The stack will be continuously monitored when the facility is in operation. All liquid waste from the URLS project will be returned to the lagoons. The recovered uranium will be recycled to the existing fuel processing facility. The recovered sludge will be disposed of in accordance with existing conditions of the license. The staff has determined that the following conditions have been met:

1. There is no significant change in the type or significant increase in the amount of any effluents that may be released offsite,
2. There is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure,
3. There is no significant construction impact, and
4. There is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents.

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Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is warranted for this proposed action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

Charles J. Haughney, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

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