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NRC AMENDS REGULATIONS TO ADD ADDITIONAL FUEL STORAGE CASK DESIGN TO APPROVED LIST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is amending its regulations to add an additional fuel storage cask design to its list of those that utilities can use--under a general license and without site-specific approval--to store spent nuclear fuel at their nuclear power plant sites.

The addition will bring to seven the total number of fuel storage cask designs approved for use under a general license. Toledo Edison Company and GPU Nuclear Corporation plan to use casks of this design to store spent fuel at their Davis-Besse (Ohio) and Oyster Creek (New Jersey) nuclear power plants.

The newly approved design is the Standardized NUHOMS Horizontal Modular Storage System, manufactured by VECTRA Technologies, Inc. of San Jose, California.

The NRC staff has issued a draft safety evaluation report on the design and a certificate of compliance with the agency's safety requirements. The agency also has prepared an assessment that finds that the action will have no significant impact on the environment.

A proposed rule on the cask design was published in the Federal Register in June for public comment. The safety evaluation report and certificate of compliance were revised to reflect further staff review and analysis of the comments received.

The amendment to the Commission's regulations to add the Standardized NUHOMS Horizontal Modular Storage Design to the approved list will be effective on January 23.

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