

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ALL LICENSEES OF REACTORS WITH INSTALLED
THERMO-LAG FIRE BARRIER MATERIAL

ISSUANCE OF DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, has acted on Petitions for action under 10 CFR 2.206 received by a letter dated September 26, 1994, from the Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service; by a press release dated October 6, 1994, from the Maryland Safe Energy Coalition; by separate letters dated October 21, 1994, from the GE Stockholders' Alliance and Dr. D. K. Cinquemani; by a letter dated October 25, 1994, from the Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy; by a letter dated October 26, 1994, from R. Benjan; by a letter dated November 14, 1994, from B. DeBolt; and by a letter dated December 8, 1994, from the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the Oyster Creek Nuclear Watch. The Petitioners requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action with regard to the use of Thermo-Lag by reactor licensees and that their letters be treated as Petitions pursuant to Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.206).

The Citizens for Fair Utility Regulation and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service requested (1) Texas Utilities Electric Company, the licensee of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Unit 1, perform additional destructive analysis for Thermo-Lag configurations in proportion to the total installed amount to determine the degree of "dry joint" occurrence, (2) the licensee perform fire tests on upgraded "dry joint" Thermo-Lag configurations for conduit and cable trays to rate the barrier as a tested configuration in

compliance with fire protection regulations, and (3) the NRC immediately suspend the Comanche Peak Unit 1 license until the above listed corrective actions are taken. The Maryland Safe Energy Coalition requested immediate shutdown of both reactors at the Peach Bottom plant until the risk of fire near electrical control cables due to combustible insulation is corrected. Dr. Cinquemani and the Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy requested that the NRC immediately shut down all reactors where Thermo-Lag is used until it has been removed and replaced. The GE Stockholders' Alliance requested shutdown of all reactors where Thermo-Lag is used until it has been removed and replaced with fire-retardant material meeting NRC standards. R. Benjan requested immediate shutdown of all reactors where Thermo-Lag is used. B. DeBolt requested shutdown of all reactors in which Thermo-Lag is used until it has been removed and replaced. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the Oyster Creek Nuclear Watch requested that NRC immediately suspend GPU Nuclear Corporation's (GPUN's) operating license for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) until GPUN removes Thermo-Lag fire barrier material and replaces it with a competitive product that meets current NRC fire protection regulations.

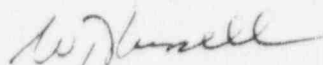
The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that these requests should be denied for the reasons stated in the "Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206" (DD-96-03), the complete text of which follows this notice, and which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Local Public Document Room for the named facilities.

A copy of this Decision has been filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c) of

the Commission's regulations. As provided by this regulation, this Decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 25 days after the date of issuance unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes review of the Decision within that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of April , 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation