from Facility Operating License No. NPF–38, issued to Entergy Operations, Inc., (the licensee), for operation of the Waterford Steam Electric Station Unit, No. 3 (Waterford 3) located in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to address potential environmental issues related to the licensee's application of November 16, 1993, as supplemented on August 19, 1994, march 30, and June 19, 1995. The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.1.(a), to the extent that a one-time interval extension for the Type A test (containment integrated leak rate test) by approximately 18 months, from the September 1995 refueling outage to the refueling outage in 1997, would be granted.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed to permit the licensee to defer the Type A test from the September 1995 refueling outage, to the 1997 refueling outage, thereby saving the cost of performing the test and eliminating the test period from the critical path time of the outage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed one-time exemption would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed one-time exemption would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents. The licensee has analyzed the results of previous Type A tests performed at Waterford 3 to show good containment performance and will continue to be required to conduct the Type B and C local leak rate tests which historically have been shown to be the principal means of detecting containment leakage paths with the Type A tests confirming the Type B and C test results. It is also noted that the licensee will perform the visual containment inspection although it is only required by Appendix J to be conducted in conjunction with Type A tests. The NRC staff considers that these inspections, though limited in scope, provide an important added level of confidence in the continued integrity of the containment boundary.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is so measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impact of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit No. 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 30, 1995, the NRC staff consulted with the Louisiana State official, Prosanta Chowdhun of the LA Radiation Protection Division, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

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

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 16, 1993, as supplemented by letters dated August 19, 1994, March 30, and June 19, 1995, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and the local public document room located at the University of New Orleans Library, Louisiana Collection, Lakefront, New Orleans, LA 70122.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of July 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Chandu P. Patel,

Project Manager, Project Directorate IV–1, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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Proposed Generic Communication and Draft Regulatory Guide; Issuance, Availability

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment on the proposed bulletin and draft guide.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to issue a bulletin titled ''Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers for Debris in Boiling Water Reactors''; the text of the bulletin is included in this notice under the Supplementary Information heading. The proposed bulletin would request boiling water reactor (BWR) licensees to implement appropriate procedural measures and plant modifications to minimize the potential for clogging of suppression pool suction strainers of emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) by debris generated during a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). The NRC has also issued a related Draft Regulatory Guide, DG–1038, ''Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following a Loss-of-Coolant Accident,'' which is a proposed Revision 2 to Regulatory Guide 1.82. The draft guide provides additional technical guidance to BWR licensees. The draft guide has not received complete staff review and does not represent an official NRC staff position.

The proposed bulletin and draft guide are being issued to involve the public in the development of a regulatory position in this area. The NRC is seeking comment from interested parties regarding both the technical and regulatory aspects of the proposed bulletin and draft guide. The titles of the proposed bulletin and draft guide should be mentioned in all correspondence.