

October 4, 2005

Mr. Stephen M. Quennoz  
Vice President, Power Supply/Generation  
Portland General Electric Company  
Trojan Nuclear Power Plant  
71760 Columbia River Highway  
Rainier, OR 97048

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE TROJAN INDEPENDENT  
SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

Dear Mr. Quennoz:

By letter dated July 6, 2005, Portland General Electric (PGE) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 72, for exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3) for submitting an annual radioactive effluent report. Also, PGE requested an amendment to the Trojan Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Special Nuclear Materials License No. 2509 (SNM-2509) to delete certain portions of Technical Specification (TS) Section 5.5.2, "Radioactive Effluent Control Program." These items are: the sentence from TS 5.5.2.b. that reads, "The Trojan ISFSI may be included in the environmental monitoring program for the Trojan Nuclear Plant", and TS 5.5.2.c. in its entirety, which requires an annual report to be submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3).

Copies of the staff's draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and the draft amended License No. SNM-2509 with the Technical Specification changes are enclosed for your review. Should you have any comments or suggestions on the draft SER and draft licence, please provide them to me by October 6, 2005.

Please reference Docket No. 72-17, and TAC Nos. L23878 (for the exemption) and L23879 (for the amendment) in future correspondence related to these licensing actions. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at (301) 415-8500.

Sincerely,  
/RA/  
Christopher M. Regan, Senior Project Manager  
Spent Fuel Licensing Section  
Spent Fuel Project Office  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-17

TAC No.: L23878 (Exemption) and L23879 (Amendment)

Enclosure: Draft SER, draft licence No. SNM-2509 with revised draft TS pages

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Portland General Electric Company  
Trojan Nuclear Plant  
71760 Columbia River Highway  
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FOR THE TROJAN INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

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**SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT**  
Docket No. 72-17  
Portland General Electric Company  
Trojan Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

## **1.0     Summary**

This Safety Evaluation Report (SER) documents the review and evaluation of a request for exemption from the requirement to submit an annual radioactive effluent report and the conforming amendment to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the Portland General Electric (PGE) Company for the Trojan Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Special Nuclear Materials License No. 2509 (SNM-2509). By application dated July 6, 2005, PGE requested an exemption from the requirement to submit an annual radioactive effluent report pursuant to 72.44(d)(3) in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulation (10 CFR). In addition, in accordance with 10 CFR 72.56, "Application for Amendment of License", PGE proposed amendment No. 5 to the Trojan ISFSI License and Technical Specification (TS), to delete the requirement to submit this annual radioactive effluent report and the language stating that the Trojan ISFSI may be included in the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant monitoring program.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the application and evaluated the information provided by PGE to support its request for the exemption and conforming amendment. The NRC concluded in the discussion below that the proposed exemption with the conforming amendment is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. Furthermore, the proposed changes to the SNM-2509 license meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72.

## **2.0     Discussion**

In accordance with the provision of 10 CFR 72.7, "the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemption from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and are otherwise in the public interest." By application dated July 6, 2005, PGE requested an exemption from the requirement to submit an annual radioactive effluent report pursuant to 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3). In addition, in accordance with 10 CFR 72.56, "Application for Amendment of License", PGE proposed amendment No. 5, to delete two items from the Trojan ISFSI TS (Appendix A to License No. SNM-2509). TS 5.5.2, "Radioactive Effluent Control Program," item c., requires an annual report to be submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3). TS 5.5.2, item b., in the last sentence, states: "The Trojan ISFSI may be included in the environmental monitoring program for the Trojan Nuclear Plant." The amendment would delete TS 5.5.2.c., and the last sentence in TS 5.5.2.b.

In accordance with the requirement of 10 CFR 51.21, NRC performed an environmental assessment (EA) of the effects of this exemption request. The staff's EA and the Finding of No

Significant Impact were published in the *Federal Register* on September 22, 2005 (70 FR 55634). The staff has determined that the proposed actions would be administrative actions that will not endanger life or property. Further, the staff concludes that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed exemption and conforming amendment will have no impact on offsite doses.

## **2.1 Radioactive Effluent Reporting**

The licensee is requesting NRC approval to be relieved from the requirement to submit an annual report to the NRC specifying the quantity of principal radionuclides released to the environment in liquid and gaseous effluent due to operation of the Trojan ISFSI. NRC has evaluated the impact to the public safety that would result in granting the requested exemption. Allowing PGE to not submit an annual report specifying the principal radionuclides released to the environment in liquid and gaseous effluents does not impact public safety because the design basis for the Trojan ISFSI is such that it is a passive system that generates no effluents during fuel storage. Thus, there should be no releases to the environment of either liquid or gaseous effluents from normal operations of the Trojan ISFSI.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes will be made to the passive system design that could result in the generation of effluents during fuel storage, and there would be no increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The proposed action would have no significant non-radiological impacts. Additionally, no reduction in radiation safety will occur if an exemption from this requirement is granted, based on the continued compliance with 10 CFR Part 20 requirements. These regulations require licensees to control the receipt, possession, use, transfer, and disposal of licensed material in such a manner that the total dose to an individual (including doses resulting from licensed and unlicensed radioactive material and from radiation sources other than background radiation) does not exceed the standards for protection against radiation prescribed in 10 CFR Part 20.

## **2.2 Technical Specifications Proposed Changes**

PGE requested the deletion of item c. of Technical Specification (TS) 5.5.2, "Radioactive Effluent Control Program, " for the Trojan ISFSI, which requires an annual effluent report to be submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3). This request constitutes an administrative change to the license. As previously stated in the Trojan ISFSI Safety Analysis Report, Section 3.3.2.1, "Principal Design Criteria," the Multi-Purpose Canister is designed to be leak tight under all normal, off-normal, and accident condition of storage. The staff has determined in its previous licensing actions that there will be no liquid or gaseous effluents resulting from the operation of the Trojan ISFSI. Therefore, the requirement for preparing an annual effluent report constitutes an unnecessary administrative burden for the licensee.

In addition, PGE requested the deletion of last sentence of TS 5.5.2.b., which reads, "The Trojan ISFSI may be included in the environmental monitoring program for the Trojan Nuclear Plant." With the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant license terminated and the loading of the Trojan ISFSI completed, the deletion of this sentence is administrative in nature and the staff concludes that it is no longer required to be included in the Trojan ISFSI TS.

### **3.0 Requirements for Noticing Proposed Action**

The staff considered the amendment's potential impact on the health and safety of the public. The staff finds that this license amendment does not involve any changes in the scope or type of operations presently authorized by the license. The staff has determined that the amendment does not present a genuine issue as to whether public health and safety will be significantly affected.

Accordingly, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.46(b)(2), immediate action on this amendment may be taken without notice of the proposed action or notice of opportunity for hearing.

### **4.0 Conclusions and Findings**

The NRC staff, based on its review, has determined that the requirement of 72.44(3)(d) is an unnecessarily prescriptive requirement for the Trojan ISFSI because the design basis of the casks stored in the ISFSI results in no radioactive effluents in a liquid or gaseous state. As stated by the licensee, no measurable radioactive effluent release from the Trojan ISFSI has been detected from the routine quarterly surveys. Also, since the loading of casks is completed in the Trojan ISFSI, any concern of radioactive effluent release due to loading is no longer applicable. Thus, granting the requested exemption and amendment to PGE will not impact the public health and safety.

Also, granting the exemption and incorporating these changes to the Trojan ISFSI license and TS will not endanger life or property of the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest.

Issued with Special Nuclear Materials License No. 2509, Amendment No. 5, on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.