



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 17, 2020

Mr. Chris Terry, Manager
Licensing and Safety Analysis
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 785
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT 35 – APPROVAL OF REGULATORY RELIEF FROM
CONDUCTING THE ANNUAL EVACUATION DRILL (ENTERPRISE PROJECT
IDENTIFIER L-2020-EPR-0002)

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated May 26, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML20147A664), BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc. – Lynchburg (BWXT NOG-L) requested relief from certain U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulatory requirements to avoid potential impacts from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency (PHE). The letter requests relief from the commitment in the BWXT NOG-L Emergency Plan to perform an annual evacuation drill. Paragraph 4.3, "Drills and Exercises," of the Emergency Plan specifies the requirement that an evacuation drill shall be conducted annually involving the entire complex. The next evacuation drill is due by August 25, 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 PHE and the size of the evacuation area, BWXT NOG-L recognizes the potential for increased risk of virus transmission among employees during an evacuation. In its letter, BWXT NOG-L committed to requiring all personnel with unescorted access to watch a short presentation showing the evacuation area and explaining evacuation responsibility as part of its 2020 training. BWXT NOG-L also committed to resuming the annual evacuation drill in 2021 and beyond.

The NRC staff has completed its review of the request. The NRC has determined that issuance of this license amendment will maintain adequate protection of public health and safety and the environment, and not be inimical to the common defense and security.

Pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70, Materials License SNM-42 is hereby amended to revise Condition S-2 as follows:

- S-2 The licensee shall maintain and execute the response measures in the Emergency Plan, Revision 32, dated May 27, 2019, or as further revised in accordance with 10 CFR 70.32(i). The regulatory relief below is granted due to potential impacts on Emergency Plan commitments from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 public health emergency.

The letter transmitted contains **Security-Related Information**. When separated from Enclosure 2 this letter is decontrolled.

C. Terry

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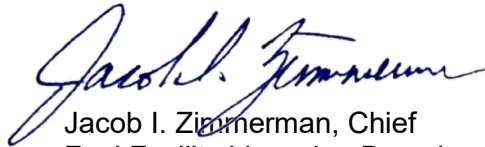
- (a) As requested by the licensee in letter 20-041 dated May 26, 2020, the Emergency Plan is temporarily changed to not require the performance of the annual evacuation drill in 2020 until July 1, 2021. After the evacuation drill is completed in 2021, this temporary Emergency Plan change will be removed and the periodicity of the evacuation drill will go back to annual.

All other license conditions shall remain the same. Enclosures 1 and 2 to this letter provide the amended Materials License SNM-42. The NRC staff's review is documented in a Safety Evaluation Report, which is Enclosure 3 to this letter. This letter concludes action on this submittal and Enterprise Project Identifier L-2020-EPR-0002 is considered **CLOSED**.

A copy of this letter, Enclosure 1, and Enclosure 3 will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room, or from the Publicly Available Records System component of ADAMS. The ADAMS database is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact James Downs of my staff at 301-415-7744, or via e-mail to: James.Downs@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Jacob I. Zimmerman, Chief
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-27
License No. SNM-42

Enclosures:

1. Amendment 35 to Materials License SNM-42
2. Amendment 35 to Materials License SNM-42 (Non-Public)
3. Safety Evaluation Report

cc: bwxt@listmgr.nrc.gov

C. Terry

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DATED: June 17, 2020

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