

(2) information provided in the environmental report and other documents submitted by Entergy Operations, Inc.; (3) consultation with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies; (4) the NRC staff's independent environmental review; and (5) the NRC staff's consideration of public comments received during the scoping process and on the draft Supplement 58 to the GEIS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, on November 8, 2018.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Eric R. Oesterle,**

Chief, License Renewal Projects Branch,  
Division of Materials and License Renewal,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-295, 50-304, and 72-1037; NRC-2018-0243]

### ZionSolutions, LLC; Zion Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2; Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Exemption; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an exemption in response to a November 2, 2017, request submitted by ZionSolutions, for its general license to operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Zion Nuclear Power Station (ZNPS). The exemption would allow ZionSolutions to deviate from the requirements in Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1031, Amendment No. 6, Appendix A, Technical Specifications and Design Features for the Modular Advanced Generation Nuclear All-purpose STORAGE (MAGNASTOR®) System, Section 5.7, "Training Program."

**DATES:** This exemption is being issued on November 14, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2018-0243 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2018-0243. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; email:

*Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov*. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by email to *pdr.resource@nrc.gov*. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *NRC's PDR:* You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Yen-Ju Chen, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone: 301-415-1018; email: *Yen-Ju.Chen@nrc.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

On February 13, 1998, Commonwealth Edison Company, the ZNPS licensee at that time, submitted a letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML15232A492) to the NRC certifying the permanent cessation of operations at ZNPS, Units 1 and 2. On March 9, 1998, Commonwealth Edison Company submitted a letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML15232A487) to the NRC certifying the permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessels at ZNPS. On May 4, 2009, the NRC issued the Order (ADAMS Accession No. ML090930037) to transfer the ownership of the permanently shut down ZNPS facility and responsibility for its decommissioning to ZionSolutions. This transfer was effectuated on September 1, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No. ML102290437).

ZionSolutions was established solely for the purpose of acquiring and decommissioning the ZNPS facility for release for unrestricted use, while transferring the spent nuclear fuel and greater-than-Class C radioactive waste to the ZNPS ISFSI. ZionSolutions holds Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-39 and DPR-48, which authorize possession of spent fuel from the operation of ZNPS, Units 1 and 2, in Zion, Illinois, pursuant to part 50 of title

10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." The licenses provide, among other things, that the facility must comply with all applicable NRC requirements.

Consistent with subpart K of 10 CFR part 72, "General License for Storage of Spent Fuel at Power Reactor Sites," a general license is issued for the storage of spent fuel in an ISFSI at power reactor sites to persons authorized to possess or operate nuclear power reactors under 10 CFR part 50. ZionSolutions is currently authorized to store spent fuel at the ZNPS ISFSI under the 10 CFR part 72 general license provisions.

The conditions of the 10 CFR part 72 general license, specifically 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), and 72.212(b)(11), require a general licensee to store spent fuel in an approved spent fuel storage cask listed in 10 CFR 72.214, and to comply with the conditions specified in the cask's CoC. ZionSolutions previously registered to load and store spent fuel in MAGNASTOR® storage casks, as approved by the NRC under CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 3 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14028A257) at the ZNPS ISFSI. In 2015, the NRC granted ZionSolutions' exemption request for CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 3. This exemption relieved ZionSolutions, under CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 3, from the requirement to develop training modules under the general licensee's systematic approach to training (SAT) that include comprehensive instructions for the operation and maintenance of the ISFSI Structures, Systems and Components (SSCs), that as defined in 10 CFR 72.3, are not important to safety (80 FR 53347). On April 17, 2017, ZionSolutions re-registered to load and store spent fuel in MAGNASTOR® storage casks, approved by the NRC under CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 6 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17116A314). As a result, the 2015 exemption no longer applies and so, ZionSolutions has submitted this exemption request for using MAGNASTOR® storage casks under Amendment No. 6.

#### II. Request/Action

By letter dated November 2, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17311A148), ZionSolutions submitted a request for exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(5), 72.212(b)(11), and 72.214. Specifically, ZionSolutions has requested an exemption from the requirements of CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 6, Appendix A, Technical Specifications

and Design Features for the MAGNASTOR® System, Section 5.7, “Training Program.” Upon review, NRC staff has added 10 CFR 72.212(b)(3) to the exemption for the proposed action pursuant to its authority under 10 CFR 72.7. The requirements in 10 CFR 72.212(b)(3) provide that the general licensee must ensure that each cask used by the general licensee conforms to the terms, conditions, and specifications of a CoC or an amended CoC listed in 10 CFR 72.214.

Section 5.7 in Appendix A requires the following: “A training program for the MAGNASTOR® system shall be developed under the general licensee’s systematic approach to training (SAT). Training modules shall include comprehensive instructions for the operation and maintenance of the MAGNASTOR® system and the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) as applicable to the status of ISFSI operations.” ZionSolutions has stated that its training program for the MAGNASTOR® system was developed using the SAT methods. The training modules included comprehensive instructions for the operation and maintenance of the MAGNASTOR® system. The exemption request applies only to developing a training program under SAT for operation and maintenance of ISFSI SSCs, that as defined in 10 CFR 72.3, are not important to safety. If granted, ZionSolutions will provide training/instructions for such SSCs in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions and ZionSolutions approved procedures, instead of developing such training and instructions using the SAT methods.

### III. Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations of 10 CFR part 72 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.

#### *Authorized by Law*

The provisions in 10 CFR part 72 from which ZionSolutions is requesting an exemption require the licensee to comply with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the CoC for the approved cask model it uses. The requested exemption would also allow ZionSolutions to provide training/instructions in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and ZionSolutions approved procedures

instead of using the SAT methods for ISFSI SSCs not important to safety. Consistent with 10 CFR 72.7, the Commission may grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 72. Additionally, as explained below, the proposed exemption will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Issuance of this exemption is consistent with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and not otherwise inconsistent with NRC’s regulations or other applicable laws. Therefore, the exemption is authorized by law.

#### *Will Not Endanger Life or Property or the Common Defense and Security*

If the requested exemption is granted, ZionSolutions would provide training/instructions in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions and ZionSolutions approved procedures, instead of using the SAT methods, for ISFSI SSCs not important to safety. There are no changes to design or operations of the ISFSI, and no changes to safety- or security-related components. Therefore, issuance of the exemption will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security.

Additionally, in 2015, the NRC granted a similar exemption to ZionSolutions that only applied to using MAGNASTOR® storage casks under Amendment No. 3. In April 2017, ZionSolutions re-registered to load and store spent fuel in MAGNASTOR® storage casks under Amendment No. 6 and so, the 2015 exemption no longer applies. As a result, ZionSolutions submitted this exemption request for using MAGNASTOR® storage casks under Amendment No. 6.

#### *Otherwise in the Public Interest*

Approval of this exemption request will only allow ZionSolutions to provide training that is not developed under a SAT program for ISFSI SSCs not important to safety. The costs associated with these activities are paid from the decommissioning trust fund for ZNPS. Decommissioning trust funds are funds set aside during plant operation. These funds do not belong to the utility and are retained in the public interest solely to pay for eventual decommissioning of the plant. ZNPS is currently in a decommissioning process. As such, there is a finite amount of funds, which exists to complete decommissioning activities. With regard to the subject request, exemption from implementation of this training process relieves the need to expend decommissioning trust fund resources

on these additional training requirements.

NRC staff finds that the exemption is otherwise in the public interest because the resources saved from developing training activities under the SAT program can be utilized for other decommissioning activities. For example, it could reduce the time needed to complete decommissioning activities and reduce the risk of radiological effects to workers and the public and ameliorate any unexpected event.

#### *Environmental Considerations*

In reviewing this exemption request, the NRC staff also considered whether there would be any significant environmental impacts associated with the exemption. Granting this exemption from 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.212(b)(11), and 72.214 only allows the licensee to develop a training program not under the SAT program for operation and maintenance of ISFSI SSCs not important to safety as defined in 10 CFR 72.3. The NRC staff has determined that this proposed action meets the categorical exclusion criteria in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25). Specifically, the criteria under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25)(i)–(v) are also satisfied. In its review, the NRC staff determined that approving ZionSolutions’ request is in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25) because the exemption request: (i) Does not involve a significant hazards considerations because the requested exemption does not involve changes to the design or operation of the safety systems for the MAGNASTOR® system or ISFSI, and it would not reduce a margin of safety, nor create a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, nor significantly increase the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; (ii) would not produce a significant change in either the types or the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite because the requested exemption neither changes the effluents nor produces additional avenues of effluent release; (iii) would not result in a significant increase in either occupational radiation exposure or public radiation exposure because the requested exemption neither introduces new radiological hazards nor increases existing radiological hazards; (iv) would not result in a significant construction impact because there is no construction activity associated with the requested exemption; and (v) would not increase either the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents because the requested exemption does not involve

any changes to the design, safety limits, or safety analysis assumptions associated with the cask system and would not create any new accident precursors. The exemption also relates solely to training requirements. Therefore this exemption is categorically excluded from further analysis under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25)(vi)(E).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(c), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment needs to be prepared in connection with the approval of this exemption request.

#### IV. Conclusions

Based on the above considerations, the NRC staff has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, that this exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants *ZionSolutions* an exemption from 10 CFR 72.212(a)(2), 72.212(b)(3), 72.212(b)(5)(i), 72.212(b)(11), and 72.214, which state that the licensee shall comply with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the CoC, only with regard to the requirements of CoC No. 1031, Amendment No. 6, Appendix A, Technical Specifications and Design Features for the MAGNASTOR® System, Section 5.7, "Training Program." The exemption only exempts *ZionSolutions* from the requirement to develop training modules under the SAT program that include comprehensive instructions for the operation and maintenance of the ISFSI SSCs that are not important to safety. The SAT training requirements are still applicable to all important to safety components, as required by the CoC.

The exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, on November 7, 2018

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**John McKirgan,**

*Chief, Spent Fuel Licensing Branch, Division of Spent Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

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#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

##### Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS); Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal

The ACRS Subcommittee on Plant License Renewal will hold a meeting on

November 15, 2018 at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Three White Flint North, 11601 Landsdown Street, Conference Rooms 1C3-1C5, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

The meeting will be open to public attendance. The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

##### Thursday November 15, 2018-8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

The Subcommittee will review the Seabrook License Renewal Amendment. The Subcommittee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with NRC staff and other interested persons regarding this matter. The Subcommittee will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the Full Committee.

Members of the public desiring to provide oral statements and/or written comments should notify the Designated Federal Official (DFO), Kent Howard (Telephone 301-415-2989 or Email: [Kent.Howard@nrc.gov](mailto:Kent.Howard@nrc.gov)) five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Seventy-five hard copies of each presentation or handout should be provided to the DFO thirty minutes before the meeting. In addition, one electronic copy of each presentation should be emailed to the DFO one day before the meeting. If an electronic copy cannot be provided within this timeframe, presenters should provide the DFO with a CD containing each presentation at least thirty minutes before the meeting. Electronic recordings will be permitted only during those portions of the meeting that are open to the public. The public bridgeline number for the meeting is 866-822-3032, passcode 8272423. Detailed procedures for the conduct of and participation in ACRS meetings were published in the **Federal Register** on October 4, 2017 (82 FR 46312).

Detailed meeting agendas and meeting transcripts are available on the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/#acrs>. Information regarding topics to be discussed, changes to the agenda, whether the meeting has been canceled or rescheduled, and the time allotted to present oral statements can be obtained from the website cited above or by contacting the identified DFO. Moreover, in view of the possibility that the schedule for ACRS meetings may be adjusted by the Chairman as necessary to facilitate the conduct of the meeting, persons planning to attend should check with these references if such

rescheduling would result in a major inconvenience.

If attending this meeting, please enter through the Three White Flint North Building, 11601 Landsdown Street, North Bethesda, MD 20852. After registering with Security, please proceed to Conference Room 1C3-1C5, located directly behind the security desk on the first floor. You may contact Mr. Theron Brown (Telephone 301-415-6702) for assistance or to be escorted to the meeting room.

Dated: November 6, 2018.

**Michael Snodderly,**

*Acting Chief, Technical Support Branch, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.*

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#### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

##### Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS); Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena

The ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena will hold a meeting on November 16, 2018, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Three White Flint North, 11601 Landsdown Street, Conference Rooms 1C3-1C5, North Bethesda, MD 20852.

The meeting will be open to public attendance with the exception of portions that will be closed to protect information that is proprietary pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4). The agenda for the subject meeting shall be as follows:

##### Friday, November 16, 2018-8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The Subcommittee will conduct a meeting to learn about user needs for computer codes as applied to safety analyses in advanced non-light water reactors (non-LWRs) and accident-tolerant fuels in LWRs. The Subcommittee will hear presentations by and hold discussions with NRC staff, industry representatives, and other interested persons regarding this matter. The Subcommittee will gather information, analyze relevant issues and facts, and formulate proposed positions and actions, as appropriate, for deliberation by the Full Committee.

Members of the public desiring to provide oral statements and/or written comments should notify the Designated Federal Official (DFO), Weidong Wang (Telephone 301-415-6279 or Email: [Weidong.Wang@nrc.gov](mailto:Weidong.Wang@nrc.gov)) one day prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Thirty-five hard copies of each