NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION]

Environmental Assessment and Findings of No Significant Impact of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facilities Decommissioning Funding Plans

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing this notice regarding the issuance of a final Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for its review and approval of the initial and updated decommissioning funding plans (DFPs) submitted by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for the Rancho Seco independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI).

DATES: The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2021-0110 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 Web Site: Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC-2021-0110. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301-415-0624; e-mail: Stacy.Schumann@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 https://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,
The NRC is considering the approval of the initial and updated DFPs submitted by SMUD for the Rancho Seco ISFSI. The NRC staff has prepared a final EA and FONSI determination for SMUD’s initial and updated DFPs in accordance with the NRC regulations in Part 51 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions,” which implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.).

The NRC requires its licensees to plan for the eventual decommissioning of their licensed facilities prior to license termination. On June 17, 2011, the NRC published a final rule in the Federal Register amending its decommissioning planning regulations (76 FR 35511). The final rule amended the NRC regulation, 10 CFR 72.30, which concerns financial assurance and decommissioning for ISFSIs. This regulation requires each holder of, or applicant for, a license under 10 CFR Part 72 to submit a DFP for the NRC’s review and approval. The DFP is to demonstrate the licensee’s financial assurance, i.e., that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI. The NRC staff
will later publish its financial analyses of the DFP submittals which will be available for public inspection in ADAMS.

II. Discussion

The table in this notice includes the facility name, docket number, licensee, and ADAMS Accession Number for the final EA and FONSI determination for each of the individual ISFSIs. The table also includes the ADAMS Accession Numbers for other relevant documents, including the initial and updated DFP submittals. For further details with respect to these actions, see the NRC staff's final EA and FONSI determinations which are available for public inspection in ADAMS and at https://www.regulations.gov under Docket ID NRC-2021-0110. For additional direction on accessing information related to this document, see the “ADDRESSES” section of this document.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Rancho Seco ISFSI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Docket No.</td>
<td>72-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensee</td>
<td>Sacramento Municipal Utility District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Action</td>
<td>The NRC’s review and approval of SMUD’s initial and updated DFPs submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 72.30(b) and (c).</td>
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<td>Environmental Impact of Proposed Action</td>
<td>The NRC staff has determined that the proposed action, the review and approval of SMUD’s initial and updated DFPs, submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 72.30(b) and (c), will not authorize changes to licensed operations or maintenance activities, or result in changes in the types, characteristics, or quantities of radiological or non-radiological effluents released into the environment from the ISFSI, or result in the creation of solid waste. Moreover, the approval of the initial and updated DFPs will not authorize any construction activity, facility modification, or other land-disturbing activity. The NRC staff has concluded that the proposed action is a procedural and administrative action that will not have a significant impact on the environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finding of No Significant Impact</td>
<td>The proposed action does not require changes to the ISFSI’s licensed routine operations, maintenance activities, or monitoring programs, nor does it require new construction or land-disturbing activities. The scope of the proposed action concerns only the NRC’s review and approval of SMUD’s initial and updated DFPs. The scope of the proposed action does not include, and will not result</td>
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in, the review and approval of decontamination or decommissioning activities or license termination for the ISFSI. Therefore, the NRC staff determined that approval of the initial and updated DFPs for the Rancho Seco ISFSI will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and accordingly, the staff has concluded that a FONSI is appropriate. The NRC staff further finds that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

Available Documents


Sacramento Municipal Utility District. ISFSI DFPs, dated March 14, 2013. ADAMS Accession No. ML13098A100.


Sacramento Municipal Utility District. ISFSI DFPs, dated March 14, 2016. ADAMS Accession No. ML16102A097.

Sacramento Municipal Utility District. ISFSI DFPs dated April 7, 2016. ADAMS Accession No. ML16106A109.


U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Final EA/FONSI for the SMUD Initial and Updated DFPs Submitted in Accordance with 10 CFR 72.30(B) and (C) for Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station’s ISFSI, dated May 7, 2021. ADAMS Accession No. ML21049A305.


For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John B. McKirgan, Chief,
Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch,
Division of Fuel Management,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

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