

underground were mitigated through the use of a fresh-water spray applied to the walls and floors of the common access drifts. Panel 7, its associated exhaust drift, and the exhaust shaft currently are the only areas of the underground where respiratory protection is required to be used.

Utilities

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted Entergy Nuclear Operations' request for exemptions from certain emergency planning (EP) requirements under 10 CFR Part 50, allowing the company to alter the emergency preparedness plan for the closed Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon, Vt. The exemptions will reflect the plant's decommissioning status and become effective on April 15. The NRC issued the exemption package, including a safety evaluation, on December 10, 2015.

According to the NRC, once Entergy implements the exemptions, state and local governments may rely on comprehensive emergency management ("all-hazard") planning for off-site emergency response to events at Vermont Yankee, rather than having a dedicated off-site radiological emergency response plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As a result, there will not be a 10-mile emergency planning zone identified in Vermont Yankee's license. The plant will maintain

an on-site emergency plan and response capabilities, including the continued notification of state government officials of an emergency declaration.

Entergy announced in December that the transfer of Vermont Yankee's spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage will begin in 2017, two years earlier than originally planned. According to the company, the change will provide a high level of confidence that the transfer of all spent fuel from the plant's spent fuel pool to dry cask storage will be completed by the end of 2020. The ability to transfer all spent fuel to two independent spent fuel storage installation pads by then depends on the issuance by the Vermont Public Service Board of a Certificate of Public Good authorizing Entergy to begin constructing the second storage pad in early 2016.

● Dominion Generation is seeking to amend its license to store spent nuclear fuel at its North Anna nuclear power plant as part of research into the effects of long-term dry storage of high-burnup nuclear fuel assemblies. Located near Mineral, Va., North Anna houses two pressurized water reactors with a combined capacity of 1,946 MWe.

In August of last year, Dominion requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission revise the technical specifications for its license for the North Anna independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). The proposed changes would allow for the storage of high-burnup spent fuel in a modified Areva TN-32B bolted-lid cask as part of the High-Burnup Dry Storage Cask



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