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No. 98-217

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Tuesday, December 8, 1998)

**NRC OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING  
ON REQUEST TO AMEND B&W LICENSE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering amending a Babcock and Wilcox Company (B&W) nuclear materials license to establish a date when the company must submit a decommissioning plan for its Shallow Land Disposal Area in Parks Township, Pennsylvania.

Any person whose interest may be affected by the amendment may request a hearing.

In July of this year, B&W asked the NRC to amend its nuclear materials license to require the company to submit a decommissioning plan for the Shallow Land Disposal Area by December 6, 2000. The NRC has not yet made a determination as to whether to grant B&W's request.

The Shallow Land Disposal Area is located in Armstrong County, about 23 miles east-northeast of Pittsburgh. It was formerly owned by Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC), which also operated the nearby Apollo Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Facility. Until 1970, the disposal area was used by NUMEC to dispose of both radioactively contaminated wastes (primarily uranium and thorium) and non-radioactive wastes in accordance with NRC regulations in effect at that time.

Atlantic Richfield Company purchased stock in NUMEC in 1967 and then sold it to B&W in 1971.

Requests for a hearing on the license amendment request must be filed within 30 days of a Federal Register notice on the subject, expected to be published about December 10. The request should be directed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention, Rulemakings and Adjudications Branch. Other requirements for filing a hearing request are described in the Federal Register notice.

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