

June 16, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Senior Vice President-Nuclear
Pennsylvania Power and Light
Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Dear Mr. Keiser:

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATING TO AN
EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J, SECTION III.D.1(a) (TAC
NOS. M81321 AND M81322)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your August 16, 1991 request.
The requested exemption is from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50,
Appendix J, Section III.D.1(a) which requires that certain surveillance tests
be conducted during the same refueling outage as Inservice Inspections (ISI)
required by 10 CFR 55.55a.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely, *George F. Maxwell*
George F. Maxwell, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George F. Maxwell".

George F. Maxwell, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,
Units 1 & 2

cc:

Jay Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Bryan A. Snapp, Esq.
Assistant Corporate Counsel
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Mr. Harold G. Stanley
Superintendent of Plant
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station
Pennsylvania Power and Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Mr. J. M. Kenny
Licensing Group Supervisor
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Mr. Herbert D. Woodeshick
Special Office of the President
Pennsylvania Power and Light Company
1009 Fowles Avenue
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603

Mr. Scott Barber
Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 35
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603-0035

Mr. Robert G. Byram
Vice President-Nuclear Operations
Pennsylvania Power and Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Mr. Thomas M. Gerusky, Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Resources
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. Jesse C. Tilton, III
Allegheny Elec. Cooperative, Inc.
212 Locust Street
P.O. Box 1266
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1266

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
PENNSYLVANIA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
AND
ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
DOCKET NOS. 50-387 and 50-388
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., (the licensees), for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Salem County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an exemption from a requirement in Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, which requires in part that the third test in each set of three tests intended to measure the primary reactor containment overall integrated leakage rate (Type A tests) shall be conducted when the plant is shut down for the 10-year plant inservice inspections (ISI).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request for an exemption dated August 16, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is required in order to provide the licensee flexibility in meeting the same requirement for three tests in 10 years without having to perform back-to-back ILRTs in back-to-back refueling outages

at a significant cost but without any significant increase in public health and safety.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption and concludes that these actions would not affect the integrity of the plant's primary containment with respect to potential radiological releases to the environment in the event of a severe transient or an accident up to and including the design basis accident (DBA). Under the assumed conditions of the DBA, the licensee must demonstrate that the calculated offsite radiological doses at the plant's exclusion boundary and low population zone outer boundary meet the guidelines in 10 CFR Part 100. Part of the licensee's demonstration is accomplished by the periodic ILRTs conducted about every 40 months to verify that the primary containment leakage rate is equal to or less than the design basis leakage rate used in its calculations demonstrating compliance with the guidelines in 10 CFR Part 100.

The licensee has successfully conducted a number of these ILRTs to date. The most recent ILRTs were completed on Unit 1 in April 1992 and on Unit 2 in November 1989 during the last respective refueling outages and was the second and third Type A tests since the units started operation in 1982 and 1985, respectively for Units 1 and 2. The next ILRT will most probably be conducted in mid 1995 for Unit 1 and late 1992 for Unit 2 assuming approval of the subject exemption. The 10-year ISI is scheduled during the forthcoming seventh refueling outage for Unit 1, and sixth refueling outage for Unit 2, which are presently scheduled to start in November 1993 and May 1994 respectively. This schedule for the 10-year ISI is in compliance with the

provisions of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and Addenda as required by 10 CFR 50.55a.

The proposed exemption request changes to decouple the schedule of the third Type A test (ILRT) from that of the 10-year ISI will not in any way compromise the leak-tight integrity of the primary containment required by Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 since the leaktightness of the containment will continue to be demonstrated by the periodic ILRTs. Additionally, these actions will not affect the existing requirement in Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J that three ILRTs be performed at approximately equal 40-month intervals during each 10-year service period. Further, the proposed uncoupling does not affect the structural integrity of the structures, systems and components subject to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a. Accordingly, there will be no increase in either the probability or the amount of radiological release from Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, in the event of a severe transient or accident. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves a change to surveillance and testing requirements. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This proposed action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, dated June 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated August 16, 1991, which is available for public inspection at

the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
and at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin
Street, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of June 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Charles L. Miller

Charles L. Miller, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation