

7590-01

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

84 OCT -1 AM 11:19

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY, ET AL

DOCKETS NOS. 50-277 and 50-278 OL

MAIL ROOM
BRANCH

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR 50 to the Philadelphia Electric Company, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Delmarva Power and Light Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, located in York County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would permit the extension of the emergency preparedness exercise at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, from June to October 1984. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the licensees' request for exemption dated March 20, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: 10 CFR 50.54(q) requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of 50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.3 of Appendix E

B502200564 840921
PDR ADCK 05000277
F PDR

requires each licensee of a nuclear power facility to conduct a biennial emergency preparedness exercise and to include participation by appropriate State and local government agencies, for State and local governments which have fully participated in a joint exercise since October 1, 1982. Previously, Section IV.F.1 required annual exercises.

By letter dated March 20, 1984, the licensee requested an exemption from the annual requirement and permission to conduct the exercise during October 1984. The licensee requested a change in the scheduled date of the exercise as a result of a consensus reached among the participants at a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III meeting with utilities, State and local governments on January 10, 1984. A small-scale emergency preparedness exercise was conducted on June 28, 1983 which involved limited local participation. An exemption from the requirements for State and local government participation in the 1983 exercise was granted in November 1983. The last full-scale exercise was conducted in June 1982. The period involved exceeds the two-year period provided by the Commission's revised rule for States and local government which participated in exercises since October 1982. Thus, the proposed exercise date of October 1984 would require exemption from the requirement of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

The licensee stated that conducting the exercise during October would permit testing of expected revisions to the Maryland offsite plans based on recently reviewed FEMA comments, testing of significant revisions to municipal plans in Pennsylvania, and testing of revisions to Lancaster and York Counties' plans based upon their recent Three Mile Island Nuclear Station exercise (November 1983). Furthermore, an extension to October would permit the licensee to test an alternate proposed emergency operations facility

location that would not be ready for a June exercise. In addition, the exercise would be performed during a different season (Fall as opposed to Spring).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the timing of the emergency preparedness exercise and, therefore, does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption does not affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. Likewise, the exemption does not affect facility nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption. Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require literal compliance with Section IV.F of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in connection with the Final Environmental Statement relating to this facility, (Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, April 1973).

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request, the FEMA document discussed above, the FEMA Final Reports of the 1982 and 1983 exercises at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and a memorandum from FEMA to Philadelphia Electric Company dated January 17, 1984, that supports the October 1984 exercise schedule. The Commission's staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated March 20, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 21st day of September, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation