

*Docket Files*

Docket No.: 50-443

JUL 07 1986

Mr. Robert J. Harrison  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Public Service Company of New Hampshire  
Post Office Box 330  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105

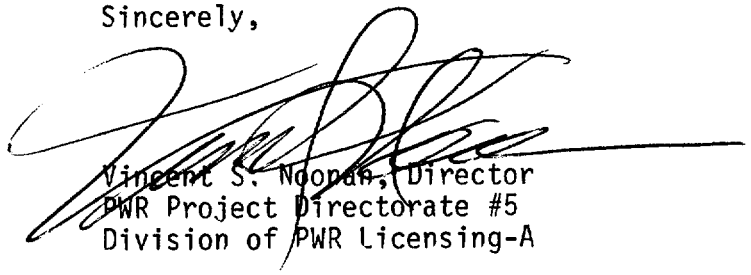
Dear Mr. Harrison:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, APPENDIX J EXEMPTION - SEABROOK  
STATION, UNIT 1

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact", related to your May 21, 1986, request for a partial exemption from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, for the Seabrook Station, Unit 1.

The Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

  
Vincent S. Noonan, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #5  
Division of PWR Licensing-A

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc: with enclosure - see next page

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

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.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the exemption dated May 21, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, DC and at the Exeter Public Library, Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this <sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> day of July, 1986.


FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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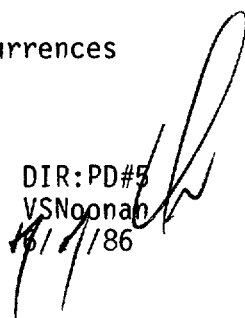
Vincent S. Noonan, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #5  
Division of PWR Licensing-A

\* See next page for previous concurrences

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this        day of        1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Vincent S. Noonan, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #5  
Division of PWR Licensing-A

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, APPENDIX J EXEMPTION - SEABROOK  
STATION, UNIT 1

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact", related to your May 21, 1986, request for a partial exemption from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, for the Seabrook Station, Unit 1.

The Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent S. Noonan".

Vincent S. Noonan, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #5  
Division of PWR Licensing-A

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc: with enclosure - see next page

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, ET AL.\*  
SEABROOK STATION, UNIT 1  
DOCKET NO.: 50-443  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a partial exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Public Service Company of New Hampshire, et al. (the applicant) for the Seabrook Station, Unit 1, located in Seabrook Township, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would eliminate the full pressure test required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J following normal air locking opening and substitute a seal leakage test to be conducted at a pressure specified in the Technical Specifications. The proposed exemption is in accordance with the applicants' request dated May 21, 1986.

(8607090095) XA

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The current construction permit holders for Seabrook Station are: Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, Canal Electric Company, Central Maine Power Company, Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, Connecticut Light & Power Company, Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company, Hudson Light and Power Department, Maine Public Service Company, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, Montaup Electric Company, New England Power Company, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Public Service Company of New Hampshire, Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant, the United Illuminating Company, Vermont Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., and Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

499

Need for Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is required to provide the applicants with greater plant availability over the lifetime of the plant.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption grants the substitute of an air lock seal test for an air lock pressure test while the reactor is in a shutdown or refueling mode. When no maintenance has been performed on the air lock that could affect its sealing capability, the air lock doors have been properly closed, and the periodic 6-month test at Pa required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(i) of Appendix J has been performed on schedule, there is no reason to expect the air lock to leak excessively just because it has been opened while the reactor is in a shutdown or refueling mode. Performing the door seal leak test of Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J is sufficient, in this case, to demonstrate the continuing integrity of the air lock.

With respect to this exemption from Appendix J, the increment of environmental impact is related solely to the potential increased probability of containment leakage during an accident. This could lead to higher offsite and control room doses. However, this potential increase is very small, due to the added seal leakage tests and the protection against excessive leakage afforded by the other tests required by Appendix J.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to these exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

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

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2, issued December 1982.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicants' request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

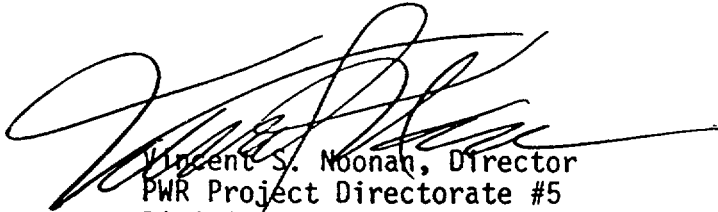
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing 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 the exemption dated May 21, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, DC and at the Exeter Public Library, Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this <sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> day of July, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Vincent S. Noonan, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #5  
Division of PWR Licensing-A