

July 31, 1990

Mr. W. L. Stewart  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
5000 Dominion Blvd.  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Dear Mr. Stewart:

SUBJECT: SURRY UNIT 1 - NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX J, 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. 76855)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated April 5, 1990, regarding your request for exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.6(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for Surry Unit 1.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Bart C. Buckley, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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Virginia Electric and Power Company

Surry Power Station

cc:

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109 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONVIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-280ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) for Surry Power Station, Unit No. 1, located in Surry County, Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would grant a one-time relief from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, paragraph III.A.6(b) to perform a Type A test every outage until two consecutive tests meet the acceptance criteria. The requested exemption would allow the licensee to resume their normal retest schedule in accordance with paragraph III.D. of Appendix J.

The licensee's request for exemption and bases therefor are contained in a letter dated April 5, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from performing a Type A test for the current refueling outage and enable Surry Unit 1 to resume the normal retest schedule specified in Section III.D. of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, and therefore prevent unnecessary pressurization of the containment to design basis pressure.

The purpose of the Type A testing is to measure and ensure that the leakage through the primary reactor containment does not exceed the maximum allowable leakage rate. It also provides assurance that periodic surveillance, maintenance and repairs are made to systems or components penetrating the containment. The last two Type A tests that the licensee performed have demonstrated that containment integrity has not significantly degraded over the operating cycle. In addition, the licensee has replaced containment sump isolation valves which were major contributors to containment leakage problems, and resolved the staff's concern about leakage from water-filled containment penetrations which are expected to operate during post-accident conditions. Therefore, the licensee has requested a one-time exemption from the schedular requirements of paragraph III.A.6(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from the schedular requirements to perform a Type A test every outage until two consecutive tests meet the acceptance criteria. The proposed exemption will not negatively impact containment integrity and will not significantly change the risk from facility accidents. Therefore, post-accident radiological releases will not be significantly greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the proposed exemption would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because it has been concluded that there are no measurable impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impacts or greater environmental impacts.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Surry Unit 1 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Surry Power Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and 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 application for exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, dated April 5, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room,

2120 L Street, N.W., Washington D.C., and at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31 day of July 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation