

May 2, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-280
and 50-281

Mr. D. S. Cruden
Vice President - Nuclear
Virginia Electric and Power Company
Post Office Box 26666
Richmond, Virginia 23261

Dear Mr. Cruden:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX J,
10 CFR 50 - SURRY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TACS 67401/67402)

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your
application dated March 1, 1988, as revised on April 8, 1988, regarding your
request for exemptions from the requirements of Section III.A.3 of Appendix J
to 10 CFR 50 for Surry Units 1 and 2.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Chandu P. Patel, 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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Mr. D. S. Cruden
Virginia Electric and Power Company

Surry Power Station

cc:

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Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Chairman
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Regional Administrator, Region II
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James B. Kenley, M.D., Commissioner
Department of Health
109 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
SURRY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-280 AND 50-281
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) for the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Surry County, Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The exemptions would grant relief from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, paragraph III.A.3, which requires that all Type A (Containment Integrated Leak Rate) tests be performed in accordance with ANSI N45.4-1972, "Leakage Rate Testing of Containment Structures for Nuclear Reactors." ANSI N45.4-1972 requires that leakage calculations be performed using the Point-to-Point method or the Total Time method. Instead, the licensee would rely on the Mass-Point method described in ANSI/ANS 56.8-1987, "Containment System Leakage Testing Requirements."

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefore are contained in a letter dated March 1, 1988, as revised on April 8, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions are from the standard (ANSI N45.4-1972) referenced in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, which requires the containment leakage calculations be performed using either the Point-to-Point or Total Time method.

The licensee proposes to perform the calculations using the Mass-Point method, a newer method that has been accepted by the NRC staff. The method is described in the ANSI/ANS 56.8-1987 standard. This method is expected to be incorporated into a planned revision of Appendix J.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions would permit the use of the Mass-Point method in performing leakage calculations. The Mass-Point method has been accepted by the NRC staff as a more accurate technique that will increase confidence in the integrity of the containment. These exemptions will not negatively impact containment integrity and do not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor do the proposed exemptions otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemptions do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

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

The principal alternative to the exemptions would be to deny the requested exemptions. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Surry Units 1 and 2 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 Statements for the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2.

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 exemptions.

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 exemptions from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, dated March 1, 1988, as revised on April 8, 1988, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of May 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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