

November 30, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACT REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT FOR  
CONDUCTING FULL-PARTICIPATION EXERCISE - LIMERICK GENERATING  
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB3195 AND MB3196)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated October 16, 2001. The proposed exemption would provide relief from a requirement of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2.c, to conduct a full-participation exercise of the offsite emergency plan every 2 years.

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

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate 1  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Edward J. Cullen, Jr.  
Vice President & General Counsel  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
300 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Manager-Limerick Licensing  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
Nuclear Group Headquarters  
Correspondence Control  
P.O. Box 160  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. William Levis, Site Vice President  
Limerick Generating Station  
P.O. Box 2300  
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Mr. R. Braun  
Plant Manager  
Limerick Generating Station  
P.O. Box 2300  
Sanatoga, PA 19464

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

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Limerick Generating Station  
P.O. Box 596  
Pottstown, PA 19464

Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
of Limerick Township  
646 West Ridge Pike  
Linfield, PA 19468

Chief-Division of Nuclear Safety  
PA Dept. of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 8469  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Library  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dr. Judith Johnsrud  
National Energy Committee  
Sierra Club  
433 Orlando Avenue  
State College, PA 16803

Mr. Jeffrey A. Benjamin  
Licensing - Vice President  
Exelon Corporation  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. Michael P. Gallagher  
Director-Licensing  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
Nuclear Group Headquarters  
Correspondence Control  
P. O. Box 160  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Correspondence Control Desk  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
200 Exelon Way, KSA 1-N-1  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. John Skolds  
Chief Operating Officer  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. William Bohlke  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. John Cotton  
Senior Vice President, Operations Support  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. Joseph Hagan  
Senior Vice President  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Operating Group  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-N  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Ms. K. Gallogly  
Regulatory Assurance Manager  
Limerick Generating Station  
P.O. Box 2300  
Sanatoga, PA 19464

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
DOCKET NOS. 50-352 AND 50-353  
LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF  
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-39 and NPF-85, issued to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon, the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, regarding conduct of a full-participation exercise of the offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would reschedule the exercise originally scheduled for November 1, 2001, and complete the exercise requirements by March 14, 2002.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption dated October 16, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Currently under 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2. c, each licensee at each site is required to conduct a full-participation exercise of its offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Federal agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, observe these exercises and evaluate the performance of the licensee, state, and local authorities having a role under the emergency plan.

The licensee had initially planned to conduct an exercise of its offsite emergency plan on November 1, 2001, which was within the required 2-year interval. However, due to the ongoing national security threat in the United States, and the response, recovery, and other offsite agency activities associated with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the licensee has decided to postpone the exercise. The licensee does not plan to conduct the full-participation exercise until after the 2-year interval has expired.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves an administrative activity unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, dated April 1984.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

On November 13, 2001, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Dennis Dyckman of the Pennsylvania Department of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments. In addition, the licensee notified the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, who indicated support for rescheduling the exercise.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Further details with respect to the proposed action can be found in the licensee's letter dated October 16, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's

Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*/RA/*

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate 1  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation