

August 15, 1990

Docket No. 50-369

Docket File
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Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President
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Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50
- MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. 75997)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated February 20, 1990, for exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 with respect to the schedule for performing the third containment integrated leak rate test for the McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Darl S. Hood, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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McGuire Nuclear Station

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE POWER COMPANY

MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-369

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 J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Duke Power Company (the licensee) for the McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would grant relief from Appendix J, Section III.D.1.(a), insofar as it requires that the third of a set of three Type A (containment integrated leak rate) tests be conducted during the 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) outage. For McGuire Unit 1, the first 10-year ISI outage will occur in 1991 with the end of fuel cycle (EOC) 7. Appendix J also requires that the tests be performed at approximately equal intervals. Equal intervals would be maintained at McGuire Unit 1 by testing during the 1990 EOC 6 outage. The exemption would permit the test for the first 10-year ISI outage to be performed during EOC 6 rather than EOC 7 without the need for repeat testing during the EOC 7 outage.

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The exemption is in response to the licensee's application for exemption dated February 20, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed to permit nearly equal intervals to be maintained in the scheduling of Type A tests during the transition from the first 10-year ISI outage through the second and remaining ISI periods. The interval used at McGuire is specified in the Technical Specifications and is 40 ± 10 months. (A corresponding change to the Technical Specifications would be made by license amendments.) Without the exemption, a fourth test, occurring within about one year of the third, would need to be performed during the first ISI 10-year interval; this additional test, performed so soon after the previous test, would be unlikely to reveal any significant change from the previous test, and would therefore be unnecessary and excessive. Moreover, the requirement that the third test occur during the 10-year ISI interval is of minimal safety significance when compared to the actual interval between tests.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the scheduling of tests. The exemption provides the scheduling flexibility needed to maintain appropriate intervals between tests for verifying containment leakage integrity. Moreover, containment leakage integrity and assurances of containment leakage integrity are not decreased by the exemption. The proposed exemption has no effect on any accident and, therefore, potential radiological releases from or within the boundary are not increased. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: It has been concluded that there is no significant adverse impact associated with the proposed exemption (or with its associated license amendment); any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce any adverse environmental impact, but would require that the refueling outage for EOC 7 be extended to perform an additional and unnecessary test of containment leakage integrity.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement dated April 1976 and January 1981 Addendum, for the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff 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 request for the exemption dated February 20, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the Atkins Library, University of North Carolina, Charlotte (UNCC Station), North Carolina 28223.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of August 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation