

SEP 19 1988

Mr. S. A. White
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. White:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR AN
EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J, TYPE C LEAK RATE TESTING
(TAC R00395, R00425) - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" related to your August 8, 1988 request for an exemption
from the Type C testing requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50. This is
for the four Containment Spray System and Residual Heat Removal Spray System
check valves in Sequoyah Units 1 and 2. The Assessment has been forwarded to the
Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Original Signed by
Suzanne Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page
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Mr. S. A. White

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Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

cc:

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Dr. Henry Myers, Science Advisor
Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Tennessee Valley Authority
Rockville Office
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Suite 402
Rockville, Maryland 20852

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NO. 50-327/328ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the Type C testing requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The units are located at the licensee's site in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The exemption was requested by the licensee in its letter dated August 8, 1988.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption will permit the licensee to exclude from Type C leak rate testing the spray check valves located in the residual heat removal spray system (RHRSS) and containment spray system (CSS). Appendix J requires that the licensee perform leak rate testing of valves that serve as containment isolation valves. The need for the exemption arose because the licensee has designated the affected valves as containment isolation valves.

Type C testing of these valves cannot be performed due to the lack of manual or remote-manual block valves in the line that are necessary to allow such testing.

The staff has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption. The staff has concluded that the exemption has no adverse effect on the safe operation of the facility and does not significantly increase the probability or consequences of an accident.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed to permit the licensee to operate the plant without being in violation of the Commission's requirements.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The Commission has completed its evaluation of the environmental impact of the proposed exemption to the testing requirements of Appendix J. The need for such testing is to ensure that containment isolation valves once closed do not leak following an accident. However, if leakage should occur, the leakage would be into closed systems which are not open to the environment. Therefore, the Commission concludes that the exemption does not involve a significant environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological environmental impacts, the proposed exemption involves systems located within the restricted areas 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.

With regard to potential radiological environmental impacts, the proposed exemption does not increase the radiological effluents from the facility and does not increase the occupational exposure at the facility. There is no significant increase in the environmental impacts of accidents assessed in the

"Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plants Units 1 and 2," dated July 1974. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Therefore, the proposed exemption does not significantly change the conclusions in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plants Units 1 and 2," dated July 1974.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts were not evaluated.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2" dated July 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request for the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

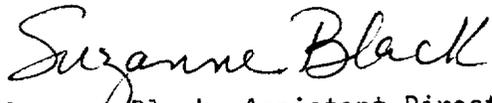
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for an exemption dated August 8, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of September 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Black".

Suzanne Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Special Projects