

Mr. O. J. Zeringue  
 Chief Nuclear Officer and  
 Executive Vice President  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 6A Lookout Place  
 1101 Market Street  
 Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
 RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(E)(4), SEQUOYAH  
 NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA0646 AND MA0647)

Dear Mr. Zeringue:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated December 1, 1997, for an exemption for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The exemption would provide relief from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report 6 months after each refueling outage. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Hernan, Senior Project Manager  
 Project Directorate II-3  
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Enclosure:  
 Environmental Assessment  
 cc w/encls: See next page

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File                   ACRS  
 PUBLIC                        LPlisco, RII  
 PDII-3 RF                    MLesser, RII  
 J.Zwolinski                  OGC

000002

NO COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT TO BE MADE

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\SQN\FSAREXEM.EA

OFFICE	PM:PDII-3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E	LA:PDII-3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E	BC:PGEB	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGC	<input type="checkbox"/>	D:PDII-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
NAME	RHernan	<i>RWH</i>	BClayton	<i>BAC</i>	TEssig	<i>TESSIG</i>			FHebdon	
DATE	11/29/98		11/29/98		11/30/98		1/98		1/98	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

9803050379 980224  
 PDR ADOCK 05000327  
 P PDR





UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 24, 1998

Mr. O. J. Zeringue  
Chief Nuclear Officer and  
Executive Vice President  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(E)(4), SEQUOYAH  
NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA0646 AND MA0647)

Dear Mr. Zeringue:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated December 1, 1997, for an exemption for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. The exemption would provide relief from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the updated Final Safety Analysis Report 6 months after each unit's refueling outage. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald W. Herman".

Ronald W. Herman, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-327 and 50-328

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/encls: See next page

Mr. O. J. Zeringue  
Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:

Mr. J. A. Scalice, Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Jack A. Bailey  
Vice President  
Engineering & Technical Services  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
6A Lookout Place  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Masoud Bajestani  
Site Vice President  
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
P.O. Box 2000  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

General Counsel  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
ET 10H  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Raul R. Baron, General Manager  
Nuclear Assurance  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
4J Blue Ridge  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. Mark J. Burzynski, Manager  
Nuclear Licensing  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
4J Blue Ridge  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

## SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Pedro Salas, Manager  
Licensing and Industry Affairs  
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
P.O. Box 2000  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. J. T. Herron, Plant Manager  
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
P.O. Box 2000  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
61 Forsyth Street, SW.  
Suite 23T85  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Mr. Melvin C. Shannon  
Senior Resident Inspector  
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
2600 Igou Ferry Road  
Soddy Daisy, TN 37379

Mr. Michael H. Mobley Director  
Division of Radiological Health  
3rd Floor, L and C Annex  
401 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

County Executive  
Hamilton County Courthouse  
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-77 and DPR-79 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Units 1 and 2, respectively, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated December 1, 1997, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the updated Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR), which could also affect the schedule for submitting design change reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 for SQN. Under the proposed exemption the licensee would schedule updates to the single, unified FSAR for the two units based on the refueling cycle of Unit 2.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The Code of Federal Regulations, 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), requires licensees to submit updates to their FSAR annually or within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since Units 1 and 2 share a common FSAR, the licensee must update the same document annually or within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. The underlying purpose of the rule was to relieve licensees of the burden of filing annual FSAR revisions while assuring that such revisions are made at least

every 24 months. The Commission reduced the burden, in part, by permitting a licensee to submit its FSAR revisions 6 months after refueling outages for its facility, but did not provide for multiple unit facilities sharing a common FSAR in the rule. Rather, the Commission stated that "With respect to the concern about multiple facilities sharing a common FSAR, licensees will have maximum flexibility for scheduling updates on a case-by-case basis." 57 FR 39355 (1992). Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and would not exceed a 24-month interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design-change report for either unit, if this is submitted with the FSAR revision.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it involves administrative activities unrelated to plant operation.

The proposed action will not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of accidents or result in a change in occupational exposure or offsite dose. Therefore, there are no radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

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

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the exemption would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and this alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action did not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to SQN dated February 13, 1974.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 29, 1998, the staff consulted with the Tennessee State official regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for the exemption dated December 1, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC, and at the local public document room located at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 24th day of February, 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation