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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-339

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee), for the North Anna Power Station, Unit No. 2 (NA-2) located in Louisa County, Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow temporary relief from the requirements of General Design Criterion-2 (GDC-2) for NA-2 with regard to a portion of the tornado missile protection for the NA service water restoration project. The proposed exemption would permit the temporary removal of the earth which provides missile protection for portions of the service water system piping, electrical system duct banks, and the emergency diesel generators' fuel oil supply piping.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed in order to permit completion of highly desirable upgrades to the service water system without unduly extending the next several scheduled refueling outages. The proposed exemption would permit part of the preparatory work to be accomplished 30 days prior to the beginning of the presently scheduled 1993 NA-1 steam generator outage until 30 days after the outage.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption does not involve any measurable environmental impacts during normal operation since the plant configuration is changed only minimally and plant operation is not changed. The likelihood of tornado missile damage during the time the exemption would be in effect which would affect equipment required to operate to avoid radiological impact is low. Thus, the proposed exemption would not significantly affect the probability or consequences of potential reactor accidents and would not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological 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 staff concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the staff has concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require strict compliance with GDC-2. Such action would not significantly enhance the protection of the environment, and would result in a significant loss of power generation to the licensee, as the next several refueling outages for NA-1&2 would have to be extended considerably.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the North Anna Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

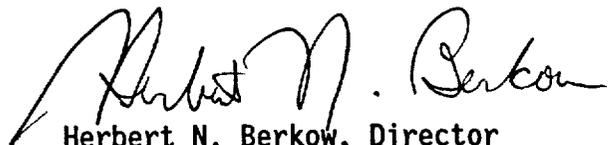
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated July 16, 1992, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Alderman Library, Manuscripts Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of October, 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Herbert N. Berkow, Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation