

March 21, 1985

Docket No. 50-259

Mr. Hugh G. Parris
Manager of Power
Tennessee Valley Authority
500A Chestnut Street, Tower II
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401

Dear Mr. Parris:

Enclosed is a copy of a "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated December 21, 1984, and supplemented by a letter dated February 22, 1985 for exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Notice

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Mr. Hugh G. Parris
Tennessee Valley Authority
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYBROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1DOCKET NO. 50-259ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING 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 50 to Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, located in Limestone County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would extend by up to 84 days the two-year test period for performing Type B and C tests of some bellows, electrical penetrations, and double O-ring seals and valves which cannot be tested during power operation. The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated December 21, 1984, as supplemented by letter dated February 22, 1985.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed to minimize simultaneous outage time of Browns Ferry Units 1 and 2. Browns Ferry Unit 2 shut down for its Cycle 5 outage September 15, 1984. Projected start up is mid-August 1985. Unit 1 is in coastdown operation scheduled to shut down for its Cycle 6 outage on June 1, 1985. The two-year test interval for various Unit 1 components subject to 10 CFR 50 Appendix J testing runs out starting April 20, 1985. Although the Unit 1 Cycle 6

outage is expected to begin in June 1985, TVA requests extension through July 12, 1985 to allow for schedular flexibility and uncertainty.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: An extension period of 84 days is relatively short (i.e., less than the 25% value permitted for surveillance tests not subject to Appendix J). Also, for a significant period of the total interval (April 19, 1983 through January 1, 1984) the facility was shutdown in a refueling outage during which the components were not subject to deleterious service conditions. Therefore, the extension in the two-year test interval for the specific components identified in the licensee's letter will not result in any significant reduction in a margin of safety. The proposed exemption will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any previously evaluated accident nor create the possibility of an accident of a type different from any previously evaluated. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this 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 Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (operating license stage) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3.

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

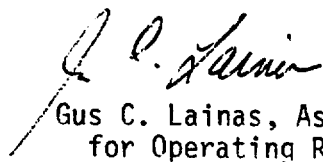
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

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 application for exemption dated December 21, 1984, as supplemented by letter dated February 22, 1985, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the Athens Public Library, South and Forrest, Athens, Alabama 35611.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 21st day of March, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing