

Ma 8, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-259/260/296

Distribution

Docket File

GPA/PA

NRC PDR

TVA-Rockville

Local PDR

BFN File

S. Ebnetter

J. Axelrad

S. Richardson

G. Zech

C. Jamerson

G. Gears

OGC

J. Rutberg

E. Jordan

J. Partlow

ACRS(10)

Mr. S. A. White  
Manager of 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  
RELATING TO A PROPOSED EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50.55a(g)(4)  
(TAC 11324, 11325, 11326)

Re: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environment Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your facility. This notice relates to your submittal dated April 6, 1983, supplemented by letter dated February 17, 1988 requesting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4).

This notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Gerald E. Gears for

Gary G. Zech, Assistant Director  
for Projects  
TVA Projects Division  
Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure  
See next page

OSP:TVA/LA  
CJamerson  
2/26/88

OSP:TVA/PM  
GGears.pw  
2/26/88

OGC *noted my previous*  
*my own*  
3/2/88

TVA:AD/P  
GZech  
3/8/88

8803140260 880308  
PDR ADOCK 05000259  
P PDR

Mr. S. A. White  
Tennessee Valley Authority

Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
Units 1, 2, and 3

cc:  
General Counsel  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
E11 B33  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Regional Administrator, Region II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. R. L. Gridley  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
5N 157B Lookout Place  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Resident Inspector/Browns Ferry NP  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Route 12, Box 637  
Athens, Alabama 35611

Mr. H. P. Pomrehn  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
P.O. Box 2000  
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. Richard King  
c/o U.S. GAO  
1111 North Shore Drive  
Suite 225, Box 194  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Mr. M. J. May  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant  
P.O. Box 2000  
Decatur, Alabama 35602

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

Mr. D. L. Williams  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
W10 B85  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Chairman, Limestone County Commission  
P.O. Box 188  
Athens, Alabama 35611

Claude Earl Fox, M.D.  
State Health Officer  
State Department of Public Health  
State Office Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260, AND 50-296BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC/the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA/the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, located at the licensee's site near Decatur, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The licensee would be exempted from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) to the extent that the 120-month pump and valve program inservice testing (IST) interval would be extended to August 31, 1992 rather than ending on March 1, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemption is needed to permit the Browns Ferry pump and valve program (IST) for all units to be on concurrent inspection intervals as opposed to a separate interval for each unit. In addition, the exemption would permit the 120-month IST interval (based on the 1980 edition of Section XI to the ASME Code through Winter Addenda) to be started on August 31, 1982 since that is the date which the licensee submitted a revised, Code updated IST program.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) would not impact the ability of the plant to effect safe shutdown and would not permit the IST interval to exceed a 120-month interval without a ASME Code update revision.

8803140270 880308  
PDR ADDCK 05000259  
PDR

- 2 -

In addition, the staff has compared the requirements of the 1980 edition of the Code through the Winter Addenda with the Code requirements which would apply in March 1987 if the exemption were not granted (i.e., the 1983 Edition and Addenda through the Summer 1983 Addenda) and has determined that there is no significant difference in the testing requirements for pumps and valves. Therefore, the proposed exemption would provide an acceptable level of safety, equivalent to that attained by compliance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4). On this basis, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption encompasses features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. Therefore, it does not affect non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the facility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports 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.

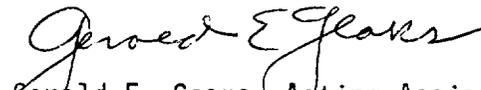
- 3 -

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes 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 exemption dated April 6, 1983, and supplemented February 17, 1988, which are 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 Street, Athens, Alabama 35611.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 8th day of March 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Gerald E. Gears, Acting Assistant Director  
for Projects  
TVA Projects Division  
Office of Special Projects