

June 26, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260
and 50-296

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

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATING TO TEMPORARY EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR PART 50.71(e) - ANNUAL
UPDATE OF FINAL SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORT (TAC NOS. 73258, 73259, 73260)

In response to your submittal dated May 23, 1989, the Commission is considering issuing a temporary exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.71(e).

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of no Significant Impact" for Browns Ferry, Units 1, 2 and 3 which is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Gerald E. Gears for

Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director
for Projects

TVA Projects Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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c/p [signature]

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.

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cc:

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
ET 11B 33H
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. F. L. Moreadith
Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
WT 12A 12A
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Dr. Mark O. Medford
Vice President and Nuclear
Technical Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
6N 38A Lookout Place
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Manager, Nuclear Licensing
and Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
5N 157B Lookout Place
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Mr. O. J. Zeringue
Site Director
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. P. Carier
Site Licensing Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35602

Mr. G. Campbell
Plant Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Decatur, Alabama 35602

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

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

Mr. Danny Carpenter
Senior Resident Inspector
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 12, Box 637
Athens, Alabama 35611

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
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 402
Rockville, Maryland 20852

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC/the Commission) is considering issuance of a temporary exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA/the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, located at the licensee's site near Decatur, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The licensee would be temporarily exempted from meeting the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to update at least annually the Browns Ferry Updated Final Safety Analyses Report (UFSAR). The UFSAR for Browns Ferry is currently required to be updated by July 22, 1989. The licensee's request for temporary exemption would delay transmittal of the 1989 updated UFSAR until the scheduled July 22, 1990 annual update. The request and the supporting bases for the temporary exemption are contained in the licensee's letter dated May 23, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The temporary exemption is required in order to permit the licensee to complete its UFSAR verification program as well as incorporate the many changes to the plant design and configuration which result from the ongoing restart

programs and modifications currently being undertaken at Browns Ferry, Unit 2. Units 1 and 3 are currently defueled and start-up of units will be after the next scheduled UFSAR update (July 1990).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The temporary exemption would allow submittal of the updated UFSAR to be delayed for 12 months. This temporary exemption is administrative and will not affect plant hardware or procedures.

The proposed temporary exemption will not affect plant operation since operations personnel will be provided with up-to-date plant configuration drawings which are utilized in the control room as source material. Changes which will affect FSAR sections will be placed in special files so that the latest information concerning any part of the UFSAR will be available for review by TVA personnel engaged in screening reviews and safety evaluations. Accordingly, the temporary exemption will not increase the probability or consequences of any reactor accident sequence. No changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite; there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure; and the temporary exemption will not otherwise affect any other radiological impact associated with the facility. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed temporary exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed temporary exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed temporary exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed

The Commission has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed temporary exemption. Therefore, any alternatives to the temporary exemption will have either equal or greater environmental impact and need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested temporary exemption. Such action would not reduce the environmental impact of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, operations.

Alternative Use of Resources

These actions associated with the granting of the proposed temporary exemption as detailed above do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) (FES) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3, dated September 1, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's submittal that supports the proposed temporary exemption discussed above 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 request for temporary exemption dated May 23, 1989 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the NRC's Local Public Document Room located at the Athens Public Library, South Street, Athens, Alabama 35611.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 26th day of June, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation