August 4, 1994

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

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
President, TVA Nuclear and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS FOR THE BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
(TAC NOS. M84401, M84402, AND M84403) (TS 321)

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 211, 226, and 184 to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN), Units 1, 2, and 3, respectively. These amendments are in response to your application dated August 25, 1992 regarding deletion of a reference to the recirculation system equalizer valves.

A copy of the NRC's Safety Evaluation is enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Joseph F. Williams, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 211 to License No. DPR-33
2. Amendment No. 226 to License No. DPR-52
3. Amendment No. 184 to License No. DPR-68
4. Safety Evaluation

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cc w/enclosures:
See next page

PDII-4/LA	PDII-4/PM	SRXB	OGC	PDII-4/D
BClayton	JWilliams	RJones	M Young	FHebdon
7/20/94	7/21/94	7/25/94	8/3/94	8/4/94

DOCUMENT NAME: TS321.AMD

REQUESTED CHANGES INCORPORATED. 8/4/94

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AMENDMENT NO. 211 FOR BROWNS FERRY UNIT 1 - DOCKET NO. 50-259
AMENDMENT NO. 226 FOR BROWNS FERRY UNIT 2 - DOCKET NO. 50-260
AMENDMENT NO. 184 FOR BROWNS FERRY UNIT 3 - DOCKET NO. 50-296
DATED: August 4, 1994

Distribution

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C. Grimes	O-11-E-22
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OPA	
OC/LFDCB	T-9-E10
E. Merschoff	RII
M. Lesser	RII

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
Tennessee Valley Authority

cc:
Mr. Craven Crowell, Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. W. H. Kennoy, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. Johnny H. Hayes, Director
Tennessee Valley Authority
ET 12A
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Mr. O. J. Zeringue, Sr. Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. D. E. Nunn, Vice President
New Plant Completion
Tennessee Valley Authority
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. R. D. Machon, Site Vice President
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

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

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Roger W. Huston, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs
Tennessee Valley Authority
4G Blue Ridge
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Mr. T. D. Shriver
Nuclear Assurance and Licensing
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

Mr. Pedro Salas
Site Licensing Manager
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P.O. Box 2000
Decatur, AL 35602

TVA Representative
Tennessee Valley Authority
11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 402
Rockville, MD 20852

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW., Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30323

Mr. Leonard D. Wert
Senior Resident Inspector
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
10833 Shaw Road
Athens, AL 35611

Chairman
Limestone County Commission
310 West Washington Street
Athens, AL 35611

State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
434 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-1701

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-259

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 211
License No. DPR-33

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated August 25, 1992, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-33 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   (2) Technical Specifications

   The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 211, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 4, 1994

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 211

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-33

DOCKET NO. 50-259

Revise the Appendix A Technical Specifications by removing the pages identified below and inserting the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by the captioned amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the area of change. Overleaf* pages are included to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE	INSERT
3.6/4.6-11	3.6/4.6-11*
3.6/4.6-12	3.6/4.6-12

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.6.E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever the reactor is in the STARTUP or RUN modes, all jet pumps shall be operable. If it is determined that a jet pump is inoperable, or if two or more jet pump flow instrument failures occur and cannot be corrected within 12 hours, an orderly shutdown shall be initiated and the reactor shall be placed in the COLD SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.6.D. Relief Valves

3. The integrity of the relief valve bellows shall be continuously monitored when valves incorporating the bellows design are installed.

4. At least one relief valve shall be disassembled and inspected each operating cycle.

E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN modes with both recirculation pumps running, jet pump operability shall be checked daily by verifying that the following conditions do not occur simultaneously:

a. The two recirculation loops have a flow imbalance of 15% or more when the pumps are operated at the same speed.

b. The indicated value of core flow rate varies from the value derived from loop flow measurements by more than 10%.

c. The diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure reading on an individual jet pump varies from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures by more than 10%.

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION	SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS
	4.6.E. Jet Pumps 2. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN Mode and one recirculation pump is operating, the diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure shall be checked daily and the differential pressure of an individual jet pump in a loop shall not vary from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures in that loop by more than 10%.
3.6.F Recirculation Pump Operation	4.6.F Recirculation Pump Operation
1. The reactor shall not be operated with one recirculation loop out of service for more than 24 hours. With the reactor operating, if one recirculation loop is out of service, the plant shall be placed in a HOT SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours unless the loop is sooner returned to service.	1. Recirculation pump speeds shall be checked and logged at least once per day.
2. Following one pump operation, the discharge valve of the low speed pump may not be opened unless the speed of the faster pump is less than 50% of its rated speed.	2. No additional surveillance required.
3. When the reactor is not in the RUN mode, REACTOR POWER OPERATION with both recirculation pumps out-of-service for up to 12 hours is permitted. During such interval restart of the recirculation pumps is permitted, provided the loop discharge temperature is within 75°F of the saturation	3. Before starting either recirculation pump during REACTOR POWER OPERATION, check and log the loop discharge temperature and dome saturation temperature.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-260

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 226
License No. DPR-52

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated August 25, 1992 complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-52 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   (2) Technical Specifications

   The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 226, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 4, 1994

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 226

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-52

DOCKET NO. 50-260

Revise the Appendix A Technical Specifications by removing the pages identified below and inserting the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by the captioned amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the area of change. Overleaf* pages are included to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE	INSERT
3.6/4.6-11	3.6/4.6-11*
3.6/4.6-12	3.6/4.6-12

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.6.E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever the reactor is in the STARTUP or RUN modes, all jet pumps shall be OPERABLE. If it is determined that a jet pump is inoperable, or if two or more jet pump flow instrument failures occur and cannot be corrected within 12 hours, an orderly shutdown shall be initiated and the reactor shall be shutdown in the COLD SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.6.D. Relief Valves

3. The integrity of the relief valve bellows shall be continuously monitored when valves incorporating the bellows design are installed.

4. At least one relief valve shall be disassembled and inspected each operating cycle.

E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN modes with both recirculation pumps running, jet pump operability shall be checked daily by verifying that the following conditions do not occur simultaneously:

a. The two recirculation loops have a flow imbalance of 15% or more when the pumps are operated at the same speed.

b. The indicated value of core flow rate varies from the value derived from loop flow measurements by more than 10%.

c. The diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure reading on an individual jet pump varies from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures by more than 10%.

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION	SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS
	4.6.E. Jet Pumps
	2. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN Mode and one recirculation pump is operating, the diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure shall be checked daily and the differential pressure of an individual jet pump in a loop shall not vary from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures in that loop by more than 10%.
3.6.F Recirculation Pump Operation	4.6.F. Recirculation Pump Operation
1. The reactor shall not be operated with one recirculation loop out of service for more than 24 hours. With the reactor operating, if one recirculation loop is out of service, the plant shall be placed in a HOT SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours unless the loop is sooner returned to service.	1. Recirculation pump speeds shall be checked and logged at least once per day.
2. Following one pump operation, the discharge valve of the low speed pump may not be opened unless the speed of the faster pump is less than 50% of its rated speed.	2. No additional surveillance required.
3. When the reactor is not in the RUN mode, REACTOR POWER OPERATION with both recirculation pumps out-of-service for up to 12 hours is permitted. During such interval, restart of the recirculation pumps is permitted, provided the loop discharge temperature is within 75°F of the saturation temperature of the reactor	3. Before starting either recirculation pump during REACTOR POWER OPERATION, check and log the loop discharge temperature and dome saturation temperature.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

DOCKET NO. 50-296

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 3

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 184
License No. DPR-68

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) dated August 25, 1992, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-68 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   (2) Technical Specifications

   The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 184, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 4, 1994

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 184

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-68

DOCKET NO. 50-296

Revise the Appendix A Technical Specifications by removing the pages identified below and inserting the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by the captioned amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the area of change. Overleaf* pages are included to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE	INSERT
3.6/4.6-11	3.6/4.6-11*
3.6/4.6-12	3.6/4.6-12

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION

3.6.E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever the reactor is in the STARTUP or RUN modes, all jet pumps shall be OPERABLE. If it is determined that a jet pump is INOPERABLE, or if two or more jet pump flow instrument failures occur and cannot be corrected within 12 hours, an orderly shutdown shall be initiated and the reactor shall be placed in the COLD SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.6.D. Relief Valves

3. The integrity of the relief valve bellows shall be continuously monitored when valves incorporating the bellows design are installed.

4. At least one relief valve shall be disassembled and inspected each operating cycle.

E. Jet Pumps

1. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN modes with both recirculation pumps running, jet pump operability shall be checked daily by verifying that the following conditions do not occur simultaneously:

a. The two recirculation loops have a flow imbalance of 15% or more when the pumps are operated at the same speed.

b. The indicated value of core flow rate varies from the value derived from loop flow measurements by more than 10%.

c. The diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure reading on an individual jet pump varies from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures by more than 10%.

LIMITING CONDITIONS FOR OPERATION	SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS
	4.6.E. Jet Pumps
	2. Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN Mode and one recirculation pump is operating, the diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure shall be checked daily and the differential pressure of an individual jet pump in a loop shall not vary from the mean of all jet pump differential pressures in that loop by more than 10%.
3.6.F Recirculation Pump Operation	4.6.F Recirculation Pump Operation
1. The reactor shall not be operated with one recirculation loop out of service for more than 24 hours. With the reactor operating, if one recirculation loop is out of service, the plant shall be placed in a HOT SHUTDOWN CONDITION within 24 hours unless the loop is sooner returned to service.	1. Recirculation pump speeds shall be checked and logged at least once per day.
2. Following one-pump operation, the discharge valve of the low speed pump may not be opened unless the speed of the faster pump is less than 50% of its rated speed.	2. No additional surveillance required.
3. When the reactor is not in the RUN mode, REACTOR POWER OPERATION with both recirculation pumps out-of-service for up to 12 hours is permitted. During such interval restart of the recirculation pumps is permitted, provided the loop discharge temperature is within 75°F of the saturation temperature	3. Before starting either recirculation pump during REACTOR POWER OPERATION, check and log the loop discharge temperature and dome saturation temperature.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 211 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-33

AMENDMENT NO. 226 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-52

AMENDMENT NO. 184 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-68

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260, AND 50-296

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 25, 1992, the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) requested an amendment of the Technical Specifications for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2, and 3. The proposed amendment revises surveillance requirements associated with reactor coolant system piping to delete reference to equalizer valves which cross-connect the recirculation piping loops. The licensee has removed these valves from BFN Unit 3, and may remove them from BFN Units 1 and 2 in the future.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The existing Technical Specification (TS) 4.6.E.2 for BFN Units 1, 2, and 3 reads as follows:

> "Whenever there is recirculation flow with the reactor in the STARTUP or RUN Mode and one recirculation pump is operating with the equalizer valve closed, the diffuser to lower plenum differential pressure shall be checked daily..."

The proposed revision to this specification deletes the phrase "with the equalizer valve closed."

The reactor coolant systems for the BFN units include two recirculation loops, which consist, in part of a recirculation pump, jet pumps, and associated piping. The original BFN design included provisions to cross-connect the two recirculation loops via two equalizer valves to permit one recirculation pump to deliver flow to both loops. However, operation in this configuration did not prove practical, due to pump performance limitations. Therefore, for BFN Unit 2, during normal operations, one equalizer valve is kept open and the other closed, with power removed from the valve operators. This configuration prevents pressure buildup between the valves.

The equalizer valves and cross-connect piping were removed from BFN Unit 3 when the licensee removed and replaced recirculation system piping to mitigate intergrannular stress corrosion cracking problems. The licensee has stated

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that it intends to perform a similar modification for BFN Unit 1 prior to returning that reactor to service. Modifications for BFN Unit 2 are dependent on the condition of piping welds, which is monitored on a routine basis. Therefore, two configurations exist; one with the equalizer valves in place, but unused (as at BFN Unit 2), and another where the valves and associated piping have been removed (as at BFN Unit 3, and Unit 1 before restart).

3.0 DISCUSSION

For the case where the equalizer valves are in place, operation in accordance with the proposed revision is not materially different from the current situation. Under the proposed revision, the licensee will be obligated to perform the differential pressure surveillance regardless of the status of the equalizer valves. Thus, there is no reduction in the level of protection provided by this surveillance requirement. Therefore, the proposed change is acceptable if the equalizer valves remain in place.

For the case where the equalizer valves have been removed, the licensee has stated that it expects the removal to yield a slight change in the jet pump flow distribution. However, this change is not expected to affect the core power and flow distribution because of the mixing effect of the reactor vessel lower plenum. Furthermore, the operating limits on linear heat rate, critical power ratio, and the ratio of the fraction of rated power to the core maximum fraction of limiting power density (TS 3/4.5.I, 3/4.5.J, 3/4.5.K, and 3/4.5.L), ensure that adequate thermal margin will be maintained regardless of any minor change in the overall flow distribution resulting from removal of the equalizer valves. Therefore, the proposed change is acceptable if the equalizer valves have been removed.

In summary, the proposed revision to TS 4.6.E.2 is acceptable for cases where the recirculation equalizer valves remain in place (as is currently the case for BFN Unit 2), or where the valves have been removed (as for BFN Unit 3).

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Alabama State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes the surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (57 FR 48829). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to

10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based upon the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Joseph Williams

Date: August 4, 1994