

December 10, 1998

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer
and Executive Vice President
Tennessee Valley Authority
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 50.71(E)(4) -
BROWNS FERRY PLANT UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 - (TAC NOS. MA1154, MA1156
AND MA1158)

Dear Mr. Scalice:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application dated February 20, 1998 for an exemption from a requirement of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, paragraph 50.71(e)(4) to submit revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report within 6 months after each refueling outage.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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DATE	12/10/98	12/10/98	12/10/98	11/5/98	12/10/98	

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raghavan", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. J. A. Scalice
Tennessee Valley Authority

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

cc:

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Chairman
Limestone County Commission
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Athens, AL 35611

Mr. Heinz Mueller
Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Review Coordinator
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Atlanta, Georgia 30365

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 IMPACTINTRODUCTION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, or the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or the licensee) for operation of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2 and 3, located in Limestone County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated February 20, 1998, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and design-change reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 for the BFN units. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would schedule updates to the single, unified FSAR for the three BFN units within 6 months following Unit 2 refueling outages.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage provided that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since the BFN Units 1, 2, and 3 share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for each of the three units. Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluent that may be released off site. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission concludes that granting the proposed exemption would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

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

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (no alternative action). Denial of the exemption would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and this alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement dated September 1, 1972 for BFN Units 1, 2 and 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 20, 1998, the NRC staff consulted with the Alabama State official, Mr. Kirk Whatley of the State Office of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

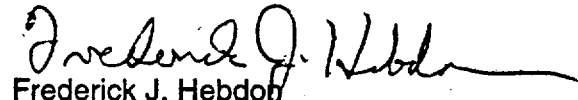
Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated February 20, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC and at the local public document room located at the Athens Public Library, 405 E. South Street, Athens, Alabama.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of December 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Frederick J. Hebdon
Director, Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects--I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation