

Docket No. 50-260

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

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATING TO PROPOSED EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX A

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for Browns Ferry, Unit 2. This notice relates to your submittal dated December 15, 1988, requesting an exemption from the criteria of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 17.

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

Sincerely,

(S)
Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.

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Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

cc:

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State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NO. 50-260ENVIRONMENTAL 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 General Design Criterion 17 of Appendix A to 10 CFR 50 to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA/the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, located at the licensee's site near Decatur, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The licensee would be temporarily exempted from the electrical separation requirements of General Design Criterion (GDC) 17 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50. As relevant to TVA's request, GDC 17 requires that, "...The onsite electric power supplies, including the batteries, and the onsite electric distribution system, shall have sufficient independence, redundancy, and testability to perform their safety functions assuming a single failure...".

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed on a temporary basis in order to allow TVA Browns Ferry, Unit 2, to load fuel and perform hydro testing. The modifications necessary to bring the plant into compliance with GDC 17 will be made prior to Unit 2 restart.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The licensee has indicated that approximately 250 cables have been discovered that do not meet the cable

separation criterion of GDC 17. Due to the extended Unit 2 outage, there is very little decay heat in the fuel and Krypton 85 is the only significant fission product left. The licensee's analysis of design basis accidents shows that any potential radiological releases would be not be greater than previously determined nor would the temporary exemption otherwise affect radiological effluents. The staff has reviewed the licensee's environmental analysis and concurs with its findings. The proposed action does not affect the probability or consequences of any accident. In addition, the proposed action does not change the types of effluents that may be released offsite and does not increase the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

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

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve any use of resources not previously considered in the September 1, 1972 Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action: Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, alternatives to the proposed action need not be evaluated. The

principal alternative, however, to the exemption would be to deny the exemption requested by the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix A, GDC 17. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

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

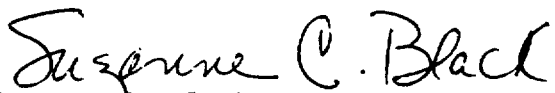
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

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 request for exemption dated December 15, 1988, 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 22nd day of December, 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Suzanne C. Black, Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Special Projects