

March 29, 1988

Docket No. 50-305

Mr. D. C. Hintz
Vice President - Nuclear Power
Wisconsin Public Service
Corporation
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Dear Mr. Hintz:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your June 23, 1987, request for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G. The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

JS

Joseph G. Gitter, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

[Handwritten signature]
3/17/88

Office:	LA/PDIII-3	PM/PDIII-3
Surname:	PKreutzer	JGitter/tg
Date:	3/15/88	3/16/88

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KPerkins	
3/17/88	3/17/88

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PDR ADDCK 05000305
PDR

Mr. D. C. Hintz
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONWISCONSIN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYMADISON GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-305ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G, Fire Protection of Safe Shutdown Capability, to the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (the licensee) for the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP), located at the licensee's site in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. The exemption was requested by the licensee by letter dated June 23, 1987.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The licensee has requested two exemptions. The first exemption was requested from the requirements of Section III.G.3 of Appendix R to the extent that it requires fixed fire suppression throughout the Control Room portion of Fire Area AX-35. Section III.G.3 requires that fire detection and fixed fire suppression systems be installed in zones for which alternative shutdown capability is provided. The second exemption was requested from the specific requirements of Section III.G.2(b) of Appendix R to the extent that it requires automatic suppression systems to be installed throughout the Shield Building (Fire Area SB-65). Section III.G.2(b) requires that fire detection and automatic fire suppression systems be installed in those areas outside of noninerted containments where redundant safe shutdown components are separated by 20 feet, free of intervening combustibles.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed to permit the licensee to operate the plant without being in violation of the Commission's requirements.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption from the requirements for a fixed fire suppression system in the Control Room portion of Fire Area AX-35 and throughout the Shield Building does not involve a significant environmental impact. There is reasonable assurance that a fire in the Control Room would not prevent safe plant shutdown based on the low combustible loading of the area, the continuous manning of the Control Room by trained operators and the alternative shutdown capability provided. Likewise, there is reasonable assurance that a fire in the Shield Building would not prevent safe plant shutdown based on the low combustible loading of the area, the passive protection provided by the separation between penetration areas, the installed smoke detectors and the fire brigade's ability to extinguish a fire in the area. There are no changes in plant operation or effluents to be considered with the proposed exemptions. Therefore, in consideration of the above, the exemption does not involve a significant environmental impact.

Alternative to Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is not significant impact associated with the proposed exemptions, any alternative to the exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The installation of a fixed fire suppression system in the Control Room or Shield Building would result in an additional cost to the licensee without significantly increasing the level of fire protection currently provided.

Alternative Use of Resources: The proposed exemptions are on the basis of an acceptable alternative use of resources; the existing fire protection for the Control Room and Shield Building areas provides a level of fire protection equivalent to the technical requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to the extent discussed previously. This alternative will save the licensee and consumers the cost of the fixed fire suppression system and the cost of maintenance/surveillance. The level of protection will be maintained with the existing systems and the intent of the specific requirement of Appendix R, Section III.G, Fire Protection of Safe Shutdown Capability, will be met.

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.


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

For details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated June 23, 1987, which is available for public inspection at the

Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.,
and at the University of Wisconsin Library Learning Center, 2420 Nicolet
Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of March, 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Perkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "K".

Kenneth E. Perkins, Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects