

July 2, 1990

Docket No. 50-461

Mr. Frank A. Spangenberg
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Dear Mr. Spangenberg:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGES TO CLARIFY THE CAPABILITIES OF CERTAIN REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM LEAKAGE DETECTION SYSTEMS FOR CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC 66553)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." related to your request dated October 30, 1987 for changes to the Technical Specifications to clarify the capabilities of certain reactor coolant system leakage detection systems. The environmental assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

John B. Hickman, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONILLINOIS POWER COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-461ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to the Illinois Power Company (IP) and Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. (the licensees), for operation of Clinton Power Station, Unit 1, located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The licensees have requested a license amendment that would revise the Technical Specifications (TS) to clarify the capabilities of certain reactor coolant system leakage detection systems. This proposed change would modify Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.4.3.2.1 to indicate that the drywell floor and equipment drain sump leak detection system instrumentation does not include direct quantitative indication of sump level and that the drywell atmospheric radioactivity leak detection system instrumentation does not quantify leakage.

This revision to the Clinton Power Station TS would be made in response to the licensees' application for amendment dated October 30, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action

IP, et al., have proposed an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NFP-62 which consists of changes to the TS. Surveillance Requirement 4.4.3.2.1 lists the methods to be used to identify/quantify reactor coolant system leakage. As currently worded the TS implies that the drywell atmospheric particulate and gaseous radioactivity monitoring system is capable of quantifying leakage. However, industry experience has demonstrated that the uncertainties associated with the relationship between a radioactive count and a leakage rate make such a relationship unusable. Therefore, the licensee proposes to add a note indicating that the drywell radiological monitoring is not a means of quantifying leakage. The TS also lists drywell floor and equipment drain sump level as a monitored variable. However, the facility only identifies leakage by monitoring sump flow rate. Therefore, the licensee proposes to delete the reference to monitoring sump level.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed changes clarify the surveillance to make the TS consistent with system design. Both the drywell radiological monitoring and the drywell sump monitoring will continue to provide a means for detecting a source of reactor coolant system leakage in accordance with NRC General Design Criterion 30. No changes to plant design are proposed.

The Commission has concluded that these changes do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident and that potential radiological releases during normal operations or transients would not be increased. With regard to nonradiological impacts, the proposed amendment

involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the staff also concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Accordingly, the Commission findings in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1" dated May 1982 regarding radiological environmental impacts from the plant during normal operation or after accident conditions, are not adversely altered by this action. IP is committed to operate Clinton, Unit 1, in accordance with standards and regulations to maintain occupational exposure levels "as low as reasonably achievable."

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on February 18, 1988 (53 FR 4917). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This alternative, in effect, would be the same as a "no action" alternative. Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements for the Clinton Station, Unit 1, dated May 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request of October 30, 1987 and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

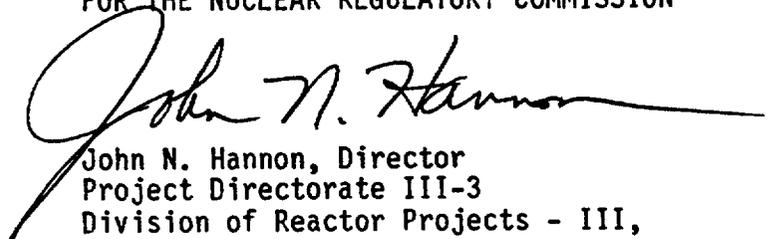
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon this environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 amendment dated October 30, 1987 and the Final Environmental Statement for the Clinton Power Station dated May 1982, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Vespasian Warner Public Library, 120 West Johnson Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of July 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation