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Docket No. 50-461

Mr. Frank Spangenberg
Manager-Licensing and Safety
Clinton Power Station
P.O. Box 678
Mail Code V920
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Dear Mr. Spangenberg:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - APPENDIX J EXEMPTION (TAC NO. 66811)

Re: Clinton Power Station, Unit 1

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated January 13, 1988 for an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by/

Janice A. Stevens, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

THE ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY, ET AL

DOCKET NO. 50-461

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the schedular requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Illinois Power Company* (IP), Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. and Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. (the licensees) for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1 (CPS) located in DeWitt County, Illinois. The exemption was requested by the licensees by letter dated January 13, 1988.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The exemption will provide a one-time relief from the 2-year surveillance interval requirement of Section III.D.3 of Appendix J, 10 CFR Part 50, for performing Type C local leak rate tests (LLRTs) for containment isolation valves (CIVs) 1E12-F023, 1E51-F034, 1E51-F035, 1E51-F390, 1E51-F391, 1E12-F061, 1E12-F062, and 1E51-F013. The licensees have proposed to conduct these tests prior to startup from the first refueling outage. This outage, which is currently scheduled to be initiated in January of 1989, must be initiated by no later than February 28, 1989. These tests must be performed prior to when containment integrity needs to be assured following the refueling operation.

*Illinois Power Company is authorized to act as agent for Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc. and Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The end of the initial 24-month testing interval for these eight CIVs is October 21, 1988. With the exception of these eight valves, the licensees either have, or plan to perform the required Type C tests for the CIVs on schedule. Many of the tests will be conducted during the spring 1988 maintenance outage. The licensees have stated that due to plant constraints it is not possible to perform the testing of these eight valves without extending the outage solely for the purpose of these tests.

The licensees have indicated that performing the leak testing on these eight valves will require the removal of the drywell head and the disassembly of the reactor head spray piping to allow installation of a blind flange as an inboard test boundary. Reassembly of the reactor head spray piping will require that a reactor coolant system boundary leakage test be performed in accordance with the ASME code. The licensees estimate that these tasks would extend the spring 1988 maintenance outage by about one week, and cause additional personnel exposure of approximately one to two Man-Rem.

The first refueling outage is scheduled to be initiated in January of 1989. Drywell head removal and a reactor coolant boundary leakage test will be required during this outage. Performance of the leak tests for these Containment Isolation Valves during this outage would bring the test schedule into alignment with the fuel cycle. Thus, the licensees indicated that the time to perform the required testing has been accounted for in planning the first refueling outage. If IP encounters a problem prior to the first refueling outage which entails removal of

the drywell head and disassembly of the reactor head spray piping, the required leakage tests will be performed in order to return to full compliance with the regulations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The licensees have indicated that the previous Type C LLRTs were performed satisfactorily for the valves covered by the requested exemption. The licensees also indicated that the calculated percentages of the leakage contribution of the subject valves to the allowable leakage limit are small. Further, the licensees have surveyed industry LLRT data for valves of this type and have determined that for all types of valves identified in the requested exemption, the probabilities of a leakage related failure during the 238 day extension period requested were low (0.84% for the worst case). Therefore, the licensees have concluded that the granting of the requested exemption would not present a significantly increased probability of containment leakage other than contemplated in Appendix J.

The Commission's staff has determined that granting the proposed exemption would not significantly increase the probability or amount of expected containment leakage and that containment integrity would thus be maintained. Consequently, the probability of accidents would not be increased, nor would the post-accident radiological releases be greater than previously determined. Neither would the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

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

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because the Commission has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative would have either no or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to the facility but would result in an outage of considerable duration with attendant costs and would result in an unnecessary loss of power to the grid when the distribution system's need for power is high.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of the Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1," dated May 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensees' request and did not consult other agencies or persons. The State of Illinois was consulted with regard to a related Technical Specification change to the Clinton Power Station Facility Operating License.

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 application for exemption dated January 13, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H 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 11th day of March 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Daniel R. Muller

Daniel R. Muller, Director
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects