

January 22, 1991

Docket No. 50-461

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

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Dear Mr. Spangenberg:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT,
CLINTON POWER STATION (TAC NO. 73808)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated October 30, 1987 and revised June 30, 1989 for changes to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.2 that would revise the conditions for test starting of the diesel generators consistent with the recommendations in NRC Generic Letter 84-15. The environmental assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Anthony T. Gody, Jr., Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

*See previous concurrence

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Mr. Frank A. Spangenberg
Illinois Power Company

Clinton Power Station
Unit No. 1

cc:

Mr. J. S. Perry
Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Post Office Box 678
Clinton, Illinois 67727

Illinois Department
of Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Mr. J. A. Miller
Manager Nuclear Station
Engineering Department
Clinton Power Station
Post Office Box 678
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Mr. Donald Schopfer
Project Manager
Sargent & Lundy Engineers
55 East Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Sheldon Zabel, Esquire
Schiff, Hardin & Waite
7200 Sears Tower
233 Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
RR#3, Box 229 A
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Mr. L. Larson
Project Manager
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue, N/C 395
San Jose, California 95125

Regional Administrator, Region III
799 Roosevelt Road, Building 4
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Chairman of DeWitt County
c/o County Clerk's Office
DeWitt County Courthouse
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Mr. Robert Neumann
Office of Public Counsel
State of Illinois Center
100 W. Randolph
Suite 11-300
Chicago, Illinois 60601

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 licensee), for operation of the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1, located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

IP, et al., have proposed an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 which consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS). The amendment would revise the TS to change the conditions for test starting of the diesel generators consistent with the recommendations in NRC Generic Letter 84-15.

This revision of the Clinton Power Station TS would be made in response to the licensees' application for amendment dated October 30, 1987 and revised June 30, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action

NRC Generic Letter (GL) 84-15, "Proposed Staff Actions to Improve and Maintain Diesel Generator Reliability," describes methods for emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) testing which, if implemented, would minimize the

impact of testing on EDG reliability. These methods include engine prelube, modified or slow starts as applicable, and loading in accordance with vendor recommendations. Prior to licensing, a footnote was added to Section 4.8.1.1.2 of the Clinton TS for the specific purpose of allowing this methodology to be applied to certain EDG surveillance testing. However, this footnote was not made applicable for all required surveillance and subsequently the NRC determined that the wording of the footnote was ambiguous, and that clarification was appropriate.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed changes would allow all diesel test starts required by TS 4.8.1.1.2 to be preceded by engine prelube and/or warmup except for ambient starts required every 184 days.

The Commission has concluded that the proposed amendment does not involve any significant radiological environmental impacts, since the changes it authorizes do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident and do not increase potential radiological releases during normal operations or transients. With regard to nonradiological impacts, the proposed amendment involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed amendment does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has 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 4920). 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 Statement for the Clinton Power 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

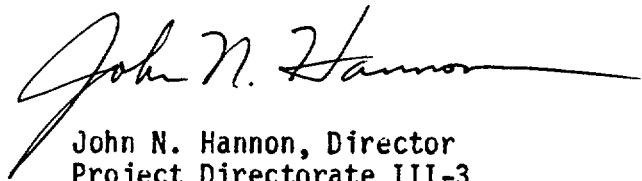
Based on the findings and conclusions discussed above, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

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 revised June 30, 1989, 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 22nd day of January 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John N. Hannon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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