

April 16, 1997

Mr. Paul J. Telthorst
Director - Licensing
Clinton Power Station
P.O. Box 678
Mail Code V920
Clinton, Illinois 61727

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M98039)

Dear Mr. Telthorst:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated April 1, 1997 (U-602714), for NRC approval, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, for a proposed amendment to the Clinton Power Station Facility Operating License NPF-62 regarding degraded voltage conditions.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Douglas V. Pickett, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-461

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Unit No. 1

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONILLINOIS POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-461CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62, issued to Illinois Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1 (CPS), located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specification (TS) Table 3.3.8.1-1, "Loss of Power Instrumentation." The modification requires that interim administrative controls be maintained in order to minimize the potential that the Class 1E loads will receive inadequate voltage in the event of a degraded voltage condition. These controls are to be maintained until the licensee completes planned modifications for upgrading the degraded voltage protection instrumentation and distribution system for all three divisions of safety-related AC power.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

As described in CPS Licensee Event Report 94-005, the degraded voltage relays at CPS, and their setpoints, are not sufficient to ensure proper operation of all Class 1E equipment, contrary to the current licensing basis

for CPS. As interim corrective action, the licensee installed an undervoltage alarm for the Division 1, 2, and 3, 4.16-kV buses and established contingent operator actions in order to minimize the potential that the Class 1E loads would receive inadequate voltage for proper operation. Subsequent licensee review of these interim administrative controls has concluded that, although the use of compensatory administrative controls reduces the risk associated with a degraded voltage condition, reliance on the interim administrative controls can potentially result in a malfunction of equipment important to safety of a different type than previously evaluated in the CPS Updated Safety Analysis Report and, therefore, constitutes an unreviewed safety question. In addition, the licensee has concluded that the interim administrative controls can result in a small reduction in the margin of safety as defined in the CPS TSs.

The proposed amendment, requested by the licensee in their letter dated April 1, 1997, would modify TS Table 3.3.8.1-1, "Loss of Power Instrumentation." The proposed change requires the interim administrative controls to be maintained to minimize the potential that the Class 1E loads would receive inadequate voltage in the event of a degraded voltage condition. These controls are to be maintained until the licensee completes planned modifications for upgrading the degraded voltage protection instrumentation and distribution system for all three divisions of safety-related AC power. The new interim administrative controls primarily consist of system planning controls on the voltage of the 345-kV offsite grid, notification of plant operators under offsite grid conditions that may result in a degraded voltage

condition if CPS tripped off-line, and utilizing an installed degraded voltage alarm that will prompt operators to take action to transfer the 4.16-kV buses to their associated diesel generators in the event voltage is not adequate to ensure proper operation of the Class 1E loads.

Description of the Proposed Change:

The licensee proposes to revise footnote (b) associated with TS Table 3.3.8.1-1, "Loss of Power Instrumentation," which was incorporated by Amendment No. 110 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 to require use of the revised setpoints for the new relays in a particular division based on release for operations (RFO) of the plant modification that installs the new undervoltage relays for that division. Specifically, the licensee proposes to add to the note a new sentence that reads, "Administrative controls as described in the 'Administrative Controls' section of Attachment 2 to Illinois Power Company's letter U-602714, dated April 1, 1997, shall be maintained until RFO of the corresponding plant modifications for Divisions 1, 2, and 3."

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has reviewed the proposed action and concludes that there will be no significant changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action will not affect nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no

significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

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 No. 1, documented in NUREG-0854.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 8, 1997, the staff consulted with the Illinois state official of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 1, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120

L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Vespasian Warner Public Library, 310 N. Quincy Street, Clinton, IL.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of April 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Gail H. Marcus

Gail H. Marcus, Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation