

November 13, 1996

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

SUBJECT: FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP -
CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M96903)

Dear Mr. Telthorst:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated October 17, 1996 (U-602648), for NRC approval of the proposed transfer of Soyland Power Cooperative's 13.21% minority ownership interest in the Clinton Power Station to Illinova Power Marketing, Inc., and issuance of conforming amendments to the Clinton Power Station Facility Operating License NPF-62.

The original of this notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Docket No. 50-461

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. Paul J. Telthorst
Illinois Power Company

Clinton Power Station
Unit No. 1

cc:

Mr. Wilfred Connell
Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Post Office Box 678
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Illinois Department
of Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety
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Springfield, Illinois 62704

Mr. Daniel P. Thompson
Manager Nuclear Station
Engineering Department
Clinton Power Station
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Clinton, Illinois 61727

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

Mr. R. T. Hill
Licensing Services Manager
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue, M/C 481
San Jose, California 95125

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

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

Mr. J. W. Blattner
Project Manager
Sargent & Lundy Engineers
55 East Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONILLINOIS POWER COMPANYSOYLAND POWER COOPERATIVEDOCKET NO. 50-461ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval of the transfer of Facility Operating License No. NPF-62, to the extent held by Soyland Power Cooperative, for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1 (CPS), located in DeWitt County, Illinois, and issuance of conforming amendments.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would consent to the transfer of the 13.21% minority ownership of the facilities for the Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1 (CPS) from Soyland Power Cooperative (Soyland) to Illinova Power Marketing, Inc. (IPMI), the unregulated power marketing affiliate of Illinois Power Company (Illinois Power), and a wholly owned subsidiary of Illinova Corporation (Illinova) and approve the issuance of conforming amendments to the licensee.

The proposed action is in accordance with Illinois Power's request for approval dated October 17, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is required to obtain the necessary consent to the transfer of the license and approval of amendments discussed above. Soyland is a minority owner of CPS with an ownership share of 13.21%. Due to severe financial difficulties arising in large part because of its CPS-related debt,

Soyland has been forced to seek significant refinancing of its outstanding obligations. As a condition precedent to said refinancing, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Services, required Soyland to completely divest itself of any ownership of, or responsibility for, CPS. As a result, Soyland and Illinova entered into an agreement wherein Illinova assumed full financial responsibility for Soyland's CPS obligations as of September 1, 1996, and Soyland agreed to transfer its entire ownership interest in CPS to Illinova, subject to receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has reviewed the proposed action and concludes that there will be no 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 does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has 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 1, documented in NUREG-0854.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 30, 1996, 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 Illinois Power submittal dated October 17, 1996, 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, 120 West Johnson Street, Clinton, Illinois.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 13th day of November 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:
Jon B. Hopkins, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*See previous concurrence

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considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1, documented in NUREG-0854.

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