

August 7, 1998

Mr. Joseph V. Sipek
Director - Licensing
Clinton Power Station
P.O. Box 678
Mail Code V920
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: CLINTON POWER STATION - INSTALLATION OF STATIC VAR
COMPENSATORS (TAC NO. MA1708)

Dear Mr. Sipek:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated May 4, 1998. The proposed amendment would incorporate Technical Specifications requirements for the protection systems for the new static VAR compensators being installed onsite to address degraded electrical grid voltage.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Jon B. Hopkins, Senior 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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WKE*



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon B. Hopkins".

Jon B. Hopkins, Senior 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

Joseph V. Sipek
Illinois Power Company

Clinton Power Station, Unit 1

cc:

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DeWitt County Courthouse
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Chicago, IL 60603

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ILLINOIS POWER

DOCKET NO. 50-461

CLINTON POWER STATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO 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 (the licensee), for operation of the Clinton Power Station located in DeWitt County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated May 4, 1998, and would incorporate Technical Specifications requirements for the protection systems for the new static VAR compensators being installed onsite to address degraded electrical grid voltage.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed as part of the solution to address degraded electrical grid voltage at Clinton Power Station.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the change will improve the plant's capability to handle degraded grid voltage. The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in

the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable occupational or public radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. 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 (NUREG-0854, May 1982).

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 11, 1998, the staff consulted with the Illinois State official, F. Nizidlek of the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

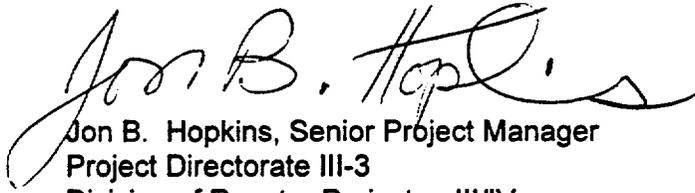
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 May 4, 1998, 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 61727.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jon B. Hopkins, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation