

February 15, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-315
and 50-316

Mr. E. E. Fitzpatrick, Vice President
Indiana Michigan Power Company
c/o American Electric Power Service Corporation
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) FOR DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M87852 AND M87853)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the enclosed schedular exemption regarding the conduct of the operational portion of the annual operator requalification examination for Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant in January-February 1994. The exemption is granted in response to your letter of October 4, 1993.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, the Commission has determined that granting the exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property, and is otherwise in the public interest.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that granting this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment. A copy of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relating to your request is enclosed.

A copy of the exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

A. Randolph Blough, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Exemption
- 2. Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

OFFICE	LA:PD31	PM:PD31	(A):PD31	BC:OLB	OGC	SAJAD:ADR3	(A):DRPW
NAME	CJamerson	BWetzel FOR	ABlough	RGalle		JZwolinski +BMarsh	JRoe JZwolinski
DATE	1/12/94	1/12/94	1/12/94	1/13/94	1/19/94	2/19/94	2/9/94

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Mr. E. E. Fitzpatrick
Indiana Michigan Power Company

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant

cc:

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December 1993

DISTRIBUTION FOR EXEMPTION DATED: February 15, 1994

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRs
PDIII-1 Reading
T. Murley/F. Miraglia, 12-G-18
J. Roe, 12-G-18
E. Rossi
J. Lieberman
J. Zwolinski
L. Marsh
A. R. Blough
C. Jamerson
J. Hickman
B. Wetzel
R. Gallo
G. Hill (4)
OGC
E. Jordan, MNBB-3701
ACRS (10)
OPA
L. Miller, R-III
W. Dean, 17-G-21

cc: Plant Service list

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
(Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2)

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Docket Nos. 50-315
and 50-316

EXEMPTION

I.

Indiana Michigan Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-58 and DPR-74 which authorize operation of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, at steady-state reactor power levels not in excess of 3250 and 3411 megawatts thermal, respectively. The Donald C. Cook facilities are pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Berrien County, Michigan. These licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

II.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), "Each licensee shall--(1) Successfully complete a requalification program developed by the facility licensee that has been approved by the Commission. This program shall be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration."

III.

By letter dated October 4, 1993, the licensee requested an exemption from administering the operating portion of the annual operator requalification examination in January - February, 1994 due to the installation of modifications in the control room. The modifications, which include replacing

all Foxboro controllers with Taylor model 30 controllers and a reconfiguration of the control room, have been completed in the simulator but will not be installed in the Unit 1 and Unit 2 control rooms until the refueling outages in February and August, 1994, respectively.

The licensee is requesting the exemption from the operational portion of the requalification examination in order to provide more simulator training time on the new modifications and to avoid administering a requalification examination on a simulator which is configured differently from the plant control rooms. The licensee will administer the operating portion of the requalification examination on the simulator in the May - June, 1994 time frame. The licensee's 24-month requalification cycle ends February 11, 1994; therefore, the exemption from the requirements of the regulation would be for a period of approximately 4 months.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

IV.

Currently, the Donald C. Cook Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program begins and ends in early February of even years. This one-time exemption would permit an operating examination from the current 24-month requalification cycle to be administered approximately 4 months into the next cycle. The next examination will be administered on schedule in January 1995, which will be consistent with the annual examination requirement cited in 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2).

V.

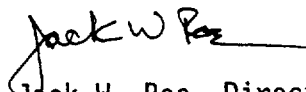
The staff has reviewed the licensee's request and concluded that issuance of this exemption will not endanger life or property and will have no significant effect on the safety of the public or the plant.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, that this exemption as described in Section III is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) for a period of February 1994 to June 1994, with respect to the 24-month requalification program. This exemption applies only to the operational examination portion of the requalification program. No changes to the written portion of the requalification program have been requested by the licensee or granted by this exemption.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that granting of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (February 14, 1994, 59 FR 6978).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jack W. Roe, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 15th day of February

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-315 AND 50-316
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) to Indiana Michigan Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Berrien County, Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. The licensee has requested an exemption which would allow it to administer the operating portion of the annual operator requalification examination in the May - June, 1994 timeframe rather than at the end of the 24-month requalification cycle in February 1994. The licensee's request for exemption and the bases are contained in its letter dated October 4, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is from 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. In

addition, an annual requalification examination must be passed. The licensee requested an exemption in order to administer the operating portion of the requalification examination from the current 24-month cycle approximately 4 months into the next cycle due to installation of control room modifications. This would be a one-time exemption and the next examination would be administered on schedule in January 1995, which is consistent with the annual examination requirement cited in 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow rescheduling of a portion of the operator license requalification examinations from the current 24-month requalification cycle into the next cycle. This exemption would not increase the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect the quantity of radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant increase in occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission 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.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Commission's Final Environmental Statement related to operation of D. C. Cook, Units 1 and 2, dated August 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff consulted with the State of Michigan regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State had no comments.

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, the staff 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 proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated October 4, 1993. This letter is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of February 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



A. Randolph Blough, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation