

October 29, 1997

Mr. E. E. Fitzpatrick, Vice President
Indiana Michigan Power Company
Nuclear Generation Group
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT - EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR
50.71(E)(4), DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. M99494 AND M99495)

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The assessment relates to your application for exemption dated August 5, 1997, from certain requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the updated final safety analysis report for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

John B. Hickman, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-315 and 50-316

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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

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Indiana Michigan Power Company
Nuclear Generation Group
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John B. Hickman", is written over the typed name.

John B. Hickman, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-315 and 50-316

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

E. E. Fitzpatrick
Indiana Michigan Power Company

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONINDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-315 AND 50-316DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-58 and DPR-74, issued to Indiana Michigan Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Berrien County, Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated August 5, 1997, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and design change reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would schedule updates to the single, unified FSAR for the two units that comprise the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant once per Unit 1 fuel cycle.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Section 50.71(e)(4) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that

the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, share a common FSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. Because the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant units have alternating refueling outages, the regulatory requirement to submit an update after the completion of one unit's refueling outage when the other unit is scheduled for a refueling outage within 6 to 12 months results in an administrative burden which does not significantly enhance safety. The proposed exemption is needed to permit a single update of the unified FSAR for the two Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant units per each Unit 1 fuel cycle.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it will not alter or affect plant operation. Allowing the exemption would maintain the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant FSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and would not exceed the 24-month interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report for either unit.

No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluent that may be released offsite and there is no increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action will not change nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable 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 NRC 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 Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, dated August 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on September 30, 1997, the NRC staff consulted with the Michigan State official, Dennis Hahn of the Michigan Department of Public Health, Nuclear Facilities and Environmental Monitoring, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

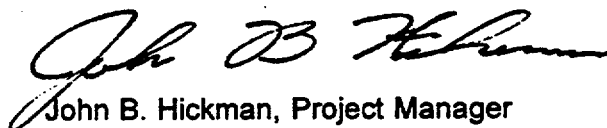
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon its 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 August 5, 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 Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of October 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Hickman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

John B. Hickman, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation