

7590-01

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY
DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3
DOCKET NOS. 50-237 AND 50-249
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee), for Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, located in Grundy County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant exemptions from certain requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50, which relate to fire protection features for ensuring that systems and associated circuits used to achieve and maintain safe shutdown are free to fire damage. The exemptions are technical since the licensee must demonstrate that fire protection configurations meet the specific requirements of Section III.G or that alternate configurations can be justified by an acceptable analysis.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions are needed because the features described in the licensee's exemption request regarding the existing and proposed fire protection at the plant would result in a net benefit to the public health and safety.

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Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at the Dresden Unit Nos. 2 and 3. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor do the proposed exemptions otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. These exemptions would not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

It has been concluded that there is not measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources beyond the scope of resources used during normal plant operation.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff did not consult other agencies or persons in connection with the proposed exemption.

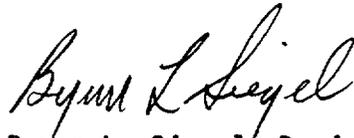
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement of the proposed exemptions.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letters dated August 10, 1984, October 16, 1985, September 18, 1985 and May 30, 1986 which contained the exemption requests, and letters dated March 12 and March 20, 1986 which provided supplemental information. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commissioners Public Document Room, 2120 L Street N.W., Washington, D.C. and at Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris Illinois 60450.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of July 1989.



Byron L. Siegel, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects III,
IV, V, and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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