

October 21, 1994

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Mr. John P. Stetz
 Sr. Vice President- Nuclear
 Centerior Service Company
 c/o Toledo Edison Company
 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
 5501 North State Route 2
 Oak Harbor, OH 43449

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR REQUESTED PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J REQUIREMENTS - DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M90649)

Dear Mr. Stetz:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application dated October 21, 1994, for a partial exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(b)(ii). The proposed exemption submitted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, would exempt the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, from performing containment air lock leakage tests before plant heatup and startup (prior to MODE 4), at not-less-than the calculated peak containment pressure from a design-basis loss of coolant accident (Pa). The licensee alternatively proposes performing a reduced pressure test, if the tests required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(i) and Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J are current, and no maintenance has been performed on the airlock.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Linda L. Gundrum, Project Manager
 Project Directorate III-3
 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-346

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. John P. Stetz
Toledo Edison Company

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
Unit No. 1

cc:

Mary E. O'Reilly
Centerior Energy Corporation
300 Madison Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43652

Robert E. Owen, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
Service
Ohio Department of Health
P. O. Box 118
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0118

Mr. William T. O'Connor, Jr.
Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Toledo Edison Company
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant
5501 North State - Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Attorney General
Department of Attorney
General
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Gerald Charnoff, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts
and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037#

Mr. James W. Harris, Director
Division of Power Generation
Ohio Department of Industrial
Regulations
P. O. Box 825
Columbus, Ohio 43216

Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC, Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60523-4351

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
DERR--Compliance Unit
ATTN: Zack A. Clayton
P. O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0149

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, Maryland 20852

State of Ohio
Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0573

Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
5503 N. State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Mr. James R. Williams
State Liaison to the NRC
Adjutant General's Department
Office of Emergency Management Agency
2825 West Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2712

Mr. John K. Wood, Plant Manager
Toledo Edison Company
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

Mr. Bill Franz (5)
Environmental Review Coordinator
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Environmental Protection Agency
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY, ET AL.
DOCKET NO. 50-346
DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 1
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a partial exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, for Facility Operating License No. NPF-3 issued to the Toledo Edison Company, Centerior Service Company, and the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (the licensees), for operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, located in Ottawa County, Ohio.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would relieve the licensee from the requirement of conducting a full pressure airlock leakage test, pursuant to Section III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, whenever airlocks are opened during periods when containment integrity is not required and no maintenance has been performed on the airlock that affects its sealing capabilities. The licensee would rely instead, on the seal leakage test described in Section III.D.2(b)(iii), when the reactor is in cold shutdown (MODE 5) or refueling (MODE 6) and when no maintenance has been performed on the airlock.

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefore are contained in a letter dated October 21, 1994.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

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required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, which requires at least 12 hours per airlock to perform. Exemption from full pressure leakage tests on airlocks opened during a period when containment integrity is not required, would provide the licensee with greater plant availability over the lifetime of the plant.

Environmental Impact of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would permit the substitution of an airlock seal leakage test (Section III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50) for the full pressure airlock test, otherwise required by Section III.D.2(b)(ii) when the airlock is opened, while the reactor is in cold shutdown or refueling mode. If the tests required by Section III.D.2(b)(i) and (iii) are current, and no maintenance performed on the airlock, then there will be adequate assurance of continued leak tight integrity of the airlock, and this exemption will not affect containment integrity, and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant 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.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because it has been concluded that there is no significant impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption.

Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of Davis-Besse, Unit No. 1 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility or unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Davis-Besse, Unit No. 1," dated October 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff consulted with the Ohio State official regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for exemption dated October 21, 1994, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, DC, and the University of Toledo Library, Documents Department, 2801 Bancroft Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of October 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Linda L. Gundrum
Linda L. Gundrum, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation