

March 10, 1989

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Docket No. 50-416

Mr. W. T. Cottle
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Post Office Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF REQUEST RELATED TO THE REACTOR
PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1
(TAC NO. 68675)

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your
request dated June 30, 1988.

The request is for an amendment to the Operating License to change the reactor
protection system (RPS) instrumentation surveillance test intervals and allowed
outage times.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

15/

Lester L. Kintner, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

[GGNS EA 68675]

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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Mr. W. T. Cottle
System Energy Resources, Inc.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS)

cc:

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President
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street
Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSYSTEM ENERGY RESOURCES, INC., et al.DOCKET NO. 50-416GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-29, issued to Systems Energy Resources, Inc., et al. (the licensee), for operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1, located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications (TS) relating to changes of the reactor protection system (RPS) instrumentation surveillance test intervals and allowed outage times. Specifically, two changes would be made to TS 3/4.3.1, "Reactor Protection System Instrumentation."

- (1) The allowed outage times for actions in the event of inoperable instrumentation channels would be increased. The time to place the inoperable channels in a tripped condition would be increased from one hour to twelve hours. The time to restore operability of the channels which cannot be tripped without causing the trip function to occur would be increased from two hours to six hours. The length of time a channel may be placed in an inoperable status for required surveillance would be increased from two hours to six hours.

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- (2) Surveillance intervals would be increased from monthly to quarterly except for the manual scram instrumentation for which the surveillance interval would be decreased from monthly to weekly.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated June 30, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the TS is needed to improve plant safety and availability. These improvements would be achieved by reducing the potential for unnecessary plant scrams, excessive equipment test cycles and the diversion of plant personnel and resources to unnecessary testing.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TS and concludes that the proposed TS would not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident. This is because a reduction in the probability of core damage due to the reduction in challenges to the safety systems by inadvertent scrams during surveillance tests more than offset the increase in the probability of core damage due to longer surveillance test intervals. Therefore, the Commission concludes that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts and no significant changes in the types of effluents that may be released offsite and that there should be no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative 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 amendment. 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 any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2", dated September 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

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 proposed action, see the application for amendment dated June 30, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Hinds Junior College, McLendon Library, Raymond, Mississippi 39154.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of March 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

15/

Ronnie H. Lo, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

*See previous concurrence

OFC	*	LA	PD21	DRPR	PM	PD21	DRPR	OGC	:	D	PD21	DRPR	:	:	:
NAME	:	PA	Anderson	:	LK	intner	:	jfw	:	RB	Bachman*	:	ER	Reeves	:
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