

August 23, 1991

Docket No. 50-483

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Dear Mr. Schnell:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO A REQUEST FOR A PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION III.A.1.(a) OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. M80397)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. The assessment relates to Item 3 of your request dated March 15, 1991 for a partial exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.5.(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50.

This environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

original signed by

M. D. Lynch, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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Mr. D. F. Schnell
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Callaway Plant
Unit No. 1

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

7590-01

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY

CALLAWAY PLANT, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-483

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.5.(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 issued to the Union Electric Company, (the licensee), for the Callaway Plant, Unit No. 1, located in Callaway County, Missouri.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant a partial exemption from a requirement in Section III.A.5.(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, which requires for a peak pressure Type A test that the measured leakage rate, L_{am} , be less than 75 percent of the maximum allowable leakage rate, L_a , measured at the calculated peak containment internal pressure, P_a . These terms are defined in Section II of Appendix J.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request for exemption dated March 15, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is needed to avoid unnecessary Type A testing of the reactor primary containment leakage rate. Granting of the exemption would avoid an increased testing frequency as required by Section III.6.b in the event the measured leakage rate was equal to or greater than $0.75 L_a$.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission's staff has determined that granting the proposed exemption would not significantly increase the probability or amount of expected containment leakage and that containment integrity would thus be maintained. Consequently, the probability of accidents would not be increased, nor would the post-accident radiological releases be greater than previously determined. Neither would the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission's staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves a change to surveillance and testing requirements. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives would have either no or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to this facility but could result in an increased frequency for Type A tests. This would result in the expenditure of resources without any compensating benefit.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Callaway Plant, Unit 1, dated January 1982.

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 exemption.

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 Item 3 in the request for amendment dated March 15, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Callaway Public Library, 710 Court Street, Fulton, Missouri 65251

and the John M. Olin Library, Washington University, Skinker and Lindell
Boulevards, St. Louis, Missouri 63130.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of August 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Clyde Y. Shiraki, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation