

August 20, 1991

Docket No. STN 50-483

Mr. Donald F. Schnell
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Union Electric Company
Post Office Box 149
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

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. M80396)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact. The assessment relates to Item 2 of your
request dated March 15, 1991, for a partial exemption from the requirements
of Section III.A.1.(a) 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
Union Electric Company

Callaway Plant
Unit No. 1

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONUNION ELECTRIC COMPANYCALLAWAY PLANT, UNIT 1DOCKET NO. STN 50-483ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a partial exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.1.(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Union Electric Company (the licensee) for the Callaway Plant, Unit 1, located in Callaway County, Missouri.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant a partial exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.1.(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50. This section requires, in part, that periodic Type A tests (i.e., those tests conducted after the initial Type A test) shall be terminated if potentially excessive leakage paths are identified which will interfere with the satisfactory completion of these tests. This section then requires that local leakage rates be measured through those paths exhibiting potentially excessive leakage and that repairs and/or adjustments be made prior to restarting the Type A test.

The proposed action is in accordance with Item 2 of the licensee's request for exemption dated March 15, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is needed to avoid delays during refueling outages in the event that potentially excessive local leakage paths are found while

conducting containment integrated leakage rate tests (CILRTs). In these circumstances, this delay would occur on the critical path for restart; the delay would be about 1½ to 2 days.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has determined that granting the proposed exemption would have no impact on the reactor primary containment leakage relative to that currently required by Section III.A.1.(a) in that repairs and/or adjustments to those paths identified as causing excessive leakage will continue to be made, thereby resulting in the same "as left" containment leakage rates. Accordingly, there will be no increase in either the probability or the amount of radiological release from the Callaway Plant in the event of an accident. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the requested exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed subject exemption causes no change in the manner of the plant operation. 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 with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts attributed to the facility, but could delay restart of the plant in the event of excessive local

leakage rates. 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 related to the operation of Callaway Plant, Unit No. 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, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to these actions, refer to Item 2 of the request for exemptions 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 Callaway County 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 20th 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