

February 9, 1990

Docket No. 50-483

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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 AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT,
CALLAWAY PLANT (TAC NO. 74192)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This environmental assessment relates to your letters dated August 2, 1989 and December 28, 1989 regarding your application to amend section 3/4.1.3 of the Technical Specifications to allow continued operation for 72 hours for diagnosis and repair, with one or more control rod assemblies inoperable due to a rod control urgent failure alarm or other electrical problem in the rod control system provided all affected control rods remain trippable.

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

Sincerely,

S. V. Athavale

S. V. Athavale, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III
IV, V, and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

As stated

cc: See next page

DOCUMENT NAME: 74192 EA

Office: LA/PDIII-3

Surname: PKreutzer

Date: 2/6/90

PDIV (A)

TAlexion

2/6/90

PM/PDIII-3

SVathavale/tg

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PD/PDIII-3

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OGC *CB*

2/7/90

Mr. D. F. Schnell
Union Electric Company

Callaway Plant
Unit No. 1

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONUNION ELECTRIC COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-483ENVIRONMENTAL 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-30, issued to Union Electric Company (the licensee), for operation of the Callaway Plant, located in Callaway County, Missouri.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed amendment would allow continued operation for 72 hours for diagnosis and repair, with one or more control rod assemblies inoperable due to a rod control urgent failure alarm or other electrical problem in the rod control system provided all affected control rods remain trippable.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated August 2, 1989, as supplemented by letter dated December 28, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed change to the technical specifications (TS) provides a distinct action statement for an inoperable rod consistent with the significance of the malfunction. A rod that is inoperable due to being untrippable is more significant than a rod that cannot be stepped due to an electrical malfunction, but remains trippable. Distinguishing

between these types of malfunctions will allow an appropriate time period to complete corrective action commensurate with significance of the malfunction. The proposed change to the existing TS would allow continued operation for 72 hours for diagnosis and repair, with one or more control rod assemblies inoperable due to a rod control urgent failure alarm or other electrical problem in the rod control system provided all affected control rods remain trippable.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TS and finds that, since the extension of the allowable outage time only applies to rods which remain trippable, assurance of the rod's primary safety function is maintained. Extension of compliance time would allow sufficient time to evaluate the failure, and to develop a systematic work plan without distraction of making shutdown preparations at the same time. Additionally, it would reduce the potential for requiring the plant to go through an unnecessary transient because of electronic failure in rod control that does not affect the trip capability. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the

Federal Register on September 18, 1989 (54 FR 38469). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves systems located within the restricted area as defined by 10 CFR Part 20. 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 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 Resource

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Callaway Plant 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

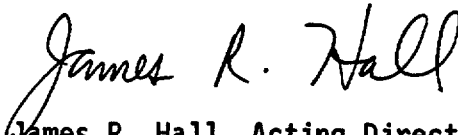
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

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 action, see the application for amendment dated August 2, 1989, and the supplement dated December 28, 1989, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the 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 9th day of February 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James R. Hall, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation