

August 5, 1994

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.  
Group Vice President, Nuclear  
TU Electric Company  
400 North Olive Street, L.B. 81  
Dallas, Texas 75021

Dear Mr. Cahill:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -  
CHANGES TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FUEL  
ENRICHMENT TO 5.0 WEIGHT PERCENT, COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC  
STATION (TAC NOS. M89417 AND M89418)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No  
Significant Impact" for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and  
2. The assessment relates to the application from TU Electric dated April 22,  
1994, which proposed changes to the technical specifications to increase the  
maximum fuel enrichment to 5.0 weight percent Uranium-235.

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

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:**

Thomas A. Bergman, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-1  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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| DATE   | 7/25/94               | 7/26/94                        | 7/27/94         | 8/5/94   |

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 5, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-445  
and 50-446

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.  
Group Vice President, Nuclear  
TU Electric Company  
400 North Olive Street, L.B. 81  
Dallas, Texas 75021

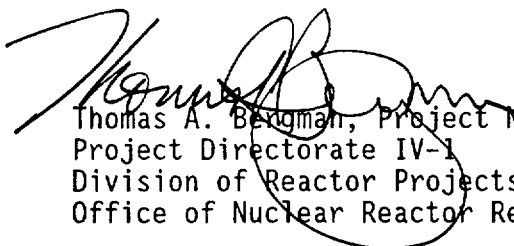
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Project Directorate IV-1  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.  
TU Electric Company

cc w/enclosure:  
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Comanche Peak, Units 1 and 2

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Texas Department of Health  
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Austin, Texas 78756

Honorable Dale McPherson  
County Judge  
P. O. Box 851  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTU ELECTRIC COMPANYCOMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2DOCKET NOS. 50-445 AND 50-446ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89, issued to Texas Utilities Electric Company, et al., (the licensee) for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2 located in Somervell County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

By letter dated April 22, 1994, the licensee proposed to change the technical specifications (TS) to allow an increase in fuel enrichment (Uranium-235) to 5.0 weight percent. The present TS permit a maximum enrichment of 4.3 weight percent.

The Need for Proposed Action:

The licensee intends, in the future, to use the more highly enriched fuel to operate with 18-month fuel cycles. Currently, TS 5.3.1 limits the storage and use of fuel to an enrichment of 4.3 weight percent. Thus, the change to the TS was requested.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to TS and concludes that storage and use of fuel enriched with U-235 up to 5.0 weight percent at the CPSES, Units 1 and 2, is acceptable. The safety considerations associated with higher enrichments have been evaluated by the

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NRC staff and the staff has concluded that such changes would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed changes have no adverse effect on the probability of any accident. There will be no change to authorized power level. There is no change to the allowable fuel burnup (60,000 MWD/MTU) already approved for CPSES, Units 1 and 2. As a result, there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative radiation exposure.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment and extended irradiation are discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation." This assessment was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 11, 1988, (53 FR 30355) as corrected on August 24, 1988, (53 FR 32322) in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1: Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5.0 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60,000 MWD/MTU are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed amendments for CPSES, Units 1 and 2. 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 changes involve systems 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 amendments.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. The staff considered denial of the proposed action; however, this would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the CPSES, Units 1 and 2, dated September 1981 (NUREG 0775) and Supplement dated October 1989.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request. The staff consulted with the State of Texas regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

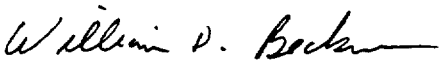
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendments.

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 license amendments dated April 22, 1994. Copies are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Local Public Document Room located at the University of Texas at the Arlington Library, Government Publications/Maps, 701 South Cooper, P.O. Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of August 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
William D. Beckner, Director  
Project Directorate IV-1  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation