

April 28, 1999

Mr. C. Lance Terry
TU Electric
Senior Vice President & Principal Nuclear Officer
Attn: Regulatory Affairs Department
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE EXEMPTION TO APPENDIX K FOR COMANCHE PEAK STEAM
ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA2268 AND MA2269)

Dear Mr. Terry

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated August 13, 1998, as supplemented on December 17, 1998. The proposed exemption would allow the licensee to reduce the margin required to account for power measurement uncertainty. This is based on the use of a new feedwater flow measurement system that allows more accurate measurement of thermal power.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIG. SIGNED BY
David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

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Sincerely,

John Hannon, Project Director
 Project Directorate IV-1
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 28, 1999

Mr. C. Lance Terry
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Senior Vice President & Principal Nuclear Officer
Attn: Regulatory Affairs Department
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Glen Rose, TX 76043

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Jaffe", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. C. Lance Terry
TU Electric Company

Comanche Peak, Units 1 and 2

cc:

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 2159
Glen Rose, TX 76403-2159

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

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

Office of the Governor
ATTN: John Howard, Director
Environmental and Natural
Resources Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Mrs. Juanita Ellis, President
Citizens Association for Sound Energy
1426 South Polk
Dallas, TX 75224

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

Mr. Roger D. Walker
TU Electric
Regulatory Affairs Manager
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

Jim Calloway
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Electric Industry Analysis
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

George L. Edgar, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Donna Ascenzi
Radiation Program Manager Region 6
Environmental Protection Agency
Air Enforcement Branch 6T E
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. 50-445 AND 50-446
COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to Facility Operating License No. NPF-87 and NPF-89, issued to Texas Utilities Electric Company, (TU Electric, the licensee), for operation of the Comanche Peak Electric Station Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2, located in Somervell County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would reduce the power level margin assumed for the emergency core cooling system analysis required by Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Appendix K, based on the proposed use of a new feedwater flow measurement system (the Leading Edge Flowmeter system manufactured by Caldon, Inc.) to allow more accurate measurement of thermal power.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated August 13, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 17, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action will improve accuracy of thermal power measurement and support the licensee's separate request to increase licensed power level (which will be reviewed separately by the Commission).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. 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, dated October 1989.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 11, 1999, the staff consulted with the Texas State official, Mr. Authur Tate of the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 13, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 17, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the University of Texas at Arlington Library, 702 College, P.O. Box 19497, Arlington, Texas.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of April 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation