

April 30, 1997

Mr. Lew W. Myers
Vice President Nuclear - Perry
Centerior Service Company
P.O. Box 97, A200
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATED TO APPROVAL OF AN INDIRECT TRANSFER OF LICENSE, PERRY
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M97456)

Dear Mr. Myers:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to a request for approval under 10 CFR 50.80 of an indirect license transfer discussed in an application, dated December 13, 1996, from The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. The proposal requests approval of an indirect transfer of the license resulting from the merger of Centerior Energy Corporation and the Ohio Edison Company.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Jon B. Hopkins, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-440

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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L. Myers
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Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

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L. Myers
Centerior Service Company

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc: (continued)

Bill Franz
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Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY, ET AL.
PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 1
DOCKET NO. 50-440
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval, by issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80, of the indirect transfer of Facility Operating License No. NPF-58, issued to The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, et al., the licensees, for operation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1, located in Lake County, Ohio.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would consent to the indirect transfer of the license with respect to a proposed merger between Centerior Energy Corporation (the parent corporation for The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, Toledo Edison Company, and Centerior Service Company; licensees for Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1) and Ohio Edison Company (Perry licensee). Ohio Edison Company is also the parent company for OES Nuclear, Inc., and Pennsylvania Power Company, which are also licensees for Perry. The merger would result in the formation of a new single holding company, FirstEnergy Corp.

The proposed action is in accordance with The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company's request for approval dated December 13, 1996. Supplemental information was submitted by letter dated February 14, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is required to obtain the necessary consent to the indirect transfer of the license discussed above. According to the licensee, the underlying transaction is needed to create a stronger, more competitive enterprise that is expected to save over \$1 billion over the first 10 years of FirstEnergy operation.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has reviewed the proposed action and concludes that there will be no changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant nonradiological 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. 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 Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, documented in NUREG-0884.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 10, 1997, the staff consulted with the Ohio State official, C. O'Clare of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

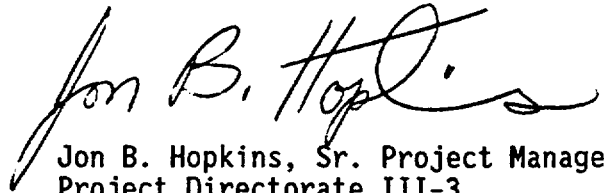
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon 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 Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company submittal dated December 13, 1996, supplemented by letter dated February 14, 1997, 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 Perry Public Library, 3753 Main Street, Perry, Ohio 44081.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of April 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon B. Hopkins, Sr.", is written over the typed name and title.

Jon B. Hopkins, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation