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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

BYRON STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-455

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an extension to the latest construction completion date specified in the Construction Permit No. CPPR-131. Construction Permit CPPR-131 for Byron Station, Unit 2 was issued to Commonwealth Edison Company on December 31, 1975 with a specified latest construction completion date of November 1, 1983. By Order, dated October 12, 1982, the latest construction completion date was extended to April 1, 1986. Byron Station is located on the applicant's site in Ogle County, Illinois, approximately 17 miles southwest of Rockford, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would amend the construction permit by extending the latest construction completion date to June 1, 1987. The proposed action is in response to applicant's request, dated February 27, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed action is needed because the construction of the facility is not fully completed. The applicant states that, although construction is approximately 80% complete, occasionally the construction work force shifts back to Unit 1 to make modifications necessary for plant availability. Unit 1 of the Byron Station was issued a full power license, NPF-37 on February 14, 1985. The longer construction period for Unit 2 also resulted from greater than estimated quantities of electrical and mechanical work as actually learned from completion of Unit 1. Testing of Unit 1 revealed the necessity to install several modifications to enhance operation of the plant that further increase the amount of work required. These modifications have been incorporated into the Unit 2 construction schedule. The combination of the factors discussed above put Unit 2 construction completion behind schedule and subsequently impacted systems turnover for testing. Additional system turnover delays have been encountered in complying with environmental qualification requirements for electrical equipment. As equipment deficiencies and component malfunctions occurred during preoperational testing, long procurement times for qualified parts added to the delay.

The requested revised completion date extends beyond the date by which the applicant expects to load fuel at Byron Unit 2 and reflects a conservative estimate of actual completion. This has been done to avoid the necessity of having to request another construction completion date extension in the future should any unanticipated delays in construction actually occur.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The environmental impacts associated with construction of the facility have been previously discussed and evaluated in the NRC's staff's Final Environmental Statement (FES) issued in July 1974 for the construction permit stage which covered construction of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2. The NRC's staff Final Environmental Statement (FES) related to operation of the two units was issued in April 1982.

Since the proposed action involves extending the construction permit, radiological impacts are not affected by this action. The impacts that are involved are all non-radiological and are associated with continued construction. As a result of the review of the Final Safety Analysis Report to date and considering the nature of the delays, the NRC staff has identified no area of significant safety consideration in connection with the extension of the construction completion date for Byron Station, Unit 2. The only change proposed by the applicant is an extension of the latest construction completion date to June 1, 1987. This extension would not change the activities already considered by previous Commission safety reviews of the facility and authorized by the construction permit, other than to extend the latest date by which construction must be completed. There are no new significant impacts associated with the extension.

Alternatives Considered: A possible alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the request. Under this alternative, the applicant would not be able to complete construction of the facility. This would result in denial of the benefit of power production. This option would not eliminate the environmental impacts of construction already incurred.

If the construction were halted and not completed, site redress activities would restore some small area to their natural state. This would be a slight environmental benefit, but much outweighed by the economic losses from denial to use a facility that is 80% complete, and is the second unit to go on line. Byron Unit 1 at the same site was issued a fuel load and low power license on October 31, 1984 and a full power license on February 14, 1985.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the FES for the Byron Station.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this extension. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

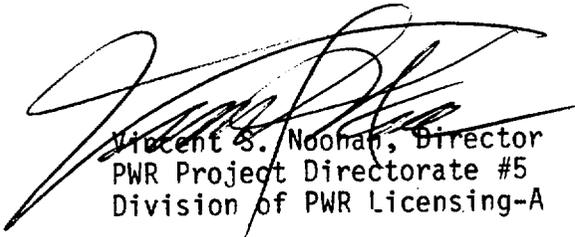
Finding of No Significant Impact: The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for extension, dated February 27, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the

Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and
at the local public document room at the Rockford Public Library, 215 N. Wyman
Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 10th day of April, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Vincent S. Noonan, Director
PWR Project Directorate #5
Division of PWR Licensing-A

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 10th day of April, 1986.

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