

August 28, 2003

Mr. R. T. Ridenoure
Division Manager - Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 550
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM THE 10 CFR PART 20 DEFINITION OF
TOTAL EFFECTIVE DOSE EQUIVALENT (TAC NO. MB7242)

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated January 8, 2003. The application requested an exemption from the 10 CFR 20.1003 definition of total effective dose equivalent (TEDE), which is the sum of the deep-dose equivalent (for external exposures) and the committed effective dose equivalent (for internal exposures). The proposed exemption would change the definition of TEDE to mean the sum of the effective dose equivalent or the deep-dose equivalent (for external exposures) and the committed effective dose equivalent (for internal exposures).

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alan B. Wang, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-285

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONOMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTDOCKET NO. 50-285FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 20, Section 20.1003 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-40, issued to Omaha Public Power District (OPPD/the licensee), for operation of the Fort Calhoun Station, Unit No. 1 (FCS), located in Washington County, Nebraska. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would provide an exemption from the 10 CFR 20.1003 definition of total effective dose equivalent (TEDE), which is the sum of the deep-dose equivalent (for external exposures) and the committed effective dose equivalent (for internal exposures). The proposed exemption would change the definition of TEDE to mean the sum of the effective dose equivalent or the deep-dose equivalent (for external exposures) and the committed effective dose equivalent (for internal exposures). The staff has determined that the new method for calculating TEDE, under certain conditions, is a more accurate means of estimating worker radiation exposure.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated January 8, 2003.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed because the current method of calculating TEDE, under certain conditions, can significantly overestimate the dose received.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that revising the methodology for calculating the dose received by individuals will not have any significant environmental impacts.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of 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 have a potential to affect 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 NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of the 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:

The action does not involve the use of any different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the FCS dated August 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

On August 8, 2003, the staff consulted with the Nebraska State official, Julia Schmitt of the Nebraska Consumer Health Services Agency, 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 NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 January 8, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area 01 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the

NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of August 2003.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

August 28, 2003

Mr. R. T. Ridenoure
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Omaha Public Power District
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