

NRC Treatment of Issues Other Than Category 2 for License Renewal

Fitzpatrick, Wolf Creek, Susquehanna,
Harris plants

May 31, 2007

Environmental Reports

The environmental report for the operating license renewal stage is not required to contain analyses of the environmental impacts of the license renewal issues identified as Category 1 issues in Appendix B to Subpart A of this part. 10 CFR 51.53(c)(3)(i)

Environmental Impact Statements

The draft supplemental environmental impact statement for license renewal...will rely on conclusions in the GEIS for issues designated as Category 1 in Appendix B to Subpart A of this part. 10 CFR 51.70(d)

Environmental Standard Review Plan (ESRP)

In the absence of new and significant information, these issues may be addressed in the SEIS without additional plant specific analysis. NUREG-1555, Supplement 1, § 4.0.

Aesthetics, Bird Collisions, Land Use, Noise

- All Category 1 issues
- 2 plants received aesthetics questions
- 2 plants received bird collisions questions
- Each plant received land use questions
- 2 plants received noise questions

Terrestrial Resources

- 9 related issues, all Category 1
- Each plant received some questions
- Most was 26 questions

(threatened and endangered species questions not included)

Aquatic Ecology

- For cooling-tower sites, all related issues (14) are Category 1, yet cooling-tower sites get aquatic ecology questions
- For once-through sites with 316(a) and (b) demonstrations, no additional analysis required, yet site still received 10 questions

Radiological Exposure, Waste

- 10 related issues
- All Category 1
- Each plant received questions; most was 19

Wastewater

- 3 related issues
- All Category 1
- Each plant received questions

Non-GEIS or Regulatory Issues

- Non-rad wastes – Each plant received questions
- Non-rad emissions – Each plant received questions
- Met tower - Each plant received questions. For Susquehanna, questions included cathodic protection

Alternatives

[T]he NRC Staff, adjudicatory offices, and Commission shall determine whether or not the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal are so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decisions makers would be unreasonable. 10 CFR 51.95(c)(4)

- Once alternative shown to be worse than proposed action, additional analysis would be superfluous. However;
- Plants still receiving requests for additional detail, evaluation of additional impacts

Questions

- Why is NRC asking for information on Category 1 issues?
- Why these Category 1 issues?
- Why is NRC asking for information on issues that GEIS and regulation don't ?
- Why is NRC asking for more analysis of alternatives?

Aesthetics New & Significant Information

The following sources of information should be included in the search for new information:

- The applicant's ER, applicant's process for discovering new information
- Records of public meetings and correspondence
- Changes to environmental quality standards and regulations

If search reveals new information, then continue with significance evaluation. Otherwise, adopt conclusion from NUREG 1555.

NUREG 1555 Supp. 1, p 4.4-6 (paraphrase)