

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

DOCKET NO. 50-286

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior To January 1, 1979," Section III.J, to the Power Authority of the State of New York (the licensee) for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3), located at the licensee's site in Westchester County, New York. This exemption would be a modification of an exemption which had been previously issued on January 7, 1987.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

Section III.J of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, requires that emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply shall be provided in all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto.

During a programmatic review of Appendix R compliance strategy at Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3), the licensee identified that certain additional operator actions, which had not been included in the previous Appendix R compliance strategy, are needed. These additional

operator actions are needed in the outside yard area at the condensate storage tank (CST), refueling water storage tank (RWST), and backup service water pump platform.

By letter dated January 7, 1987, the NRC previously approved an exemption from the emergency lighting requirements of Appendix R, Section III.J to allow the use of security lighting for access and egress to the Appendix R diesel generator which is also located in the outside yard. The licensee has, therefore, requested a modification to the exemption which was previously issued by the NRC on January 7, 1987, to extend the use of security lighting in the outside yard to include the CST, RWST, and backup service water platform.

Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed to permit the licensee to restart and operate the plant without being in violation of the Commission's regulations and to obviate the need for extensive modifications. Physical modification of the plant to achieve literal compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.J, would require installation of emergency lighting in an exposed outdoor environment which would require special protective enclosures and extensive maintenance to maintain operability. Since security lighting which meets the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(c)(5) is already installed in these areas and since this security lighting has already been acceptable to justify a similar exemption which was issued on January 7, 1987, application of the regulation in this particular circumstance would not be necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. The security lighting system achieves the underlying purpose of the rule in that it provides adequate illumination to

perform the above-mentioned activities in the outside yard for a period of at least 8 hours, has its own independent emergency generator power source, and is not impacted by fires in other areas of the plant for which Appendix R fires need to be considered.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to modify the exemption which was previously issued by the NRC on January 7, 1987, to extend the use of security lighting in the outside yard to include the CST, RWST, and backup service water platform. The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the probability or consequences of accidents will not increase, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or

greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. 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 Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station Unit No. 3," dated February 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, the staff consulted with the State of New York regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

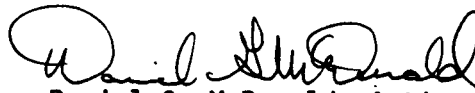
Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated March 15, 1995, which is available for public

inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of March 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel G. McDonald", is written over the typed name.

Daniel G. McDonald, Acting Director
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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation