

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK INC.
INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-247
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-26 issued to the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (the licensee) for operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2, located in Westchester County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would include provisions in the Technical Specifications (TS) 5.3, Reactor Core, which allows for an increase in reload fuel enrichment from 4.3 weight percent U-235 to 5.0 weight percent U-235 and in addition, TS 5.4, Fuel Storage, to allow for storage of 5.0 weight percent U-235 fuel assemblies in the new fuel storage rack.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated February 6, 1992, as supplemented September 17, 1992.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes are needed so that the licensee can use higher fuel enrichment to provide the flexibility of extending the fuel irradiation and to permit operation for longer fuel cycles.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the TS. The proposed revisions would permit use of fuel enriched to a nominal 5.0 weight percent uranium 235. The safety considerations associated with reactor operation with higher enrichment and extended irradiation have been evaluated by the NRC staff. The staff has concluded that such changes would not adversely affect plant safety. The proposed changes have no adverse effect on the probability of any accident. The higher enrichment, with fuel burnup to 60,000 megawatt days per metric ton uranium, may slightly change the mix of fission products that might be released in the event of a serious accident, but such changes would not significantly affect the consequences of serious accidents. No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluents that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts of reactor operations with higher enrichment and extended irradiation, the proposed changes to the TS involve systems located within the restricted area, as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment fuel and extended irradiation were published and discussed in the staff assessment entitled, "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation," dated July 7, 1988, and published in the Federal Register on August 11, 1988

(53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322), in connection with the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of the proposed increase in the fuel enrichment and irradiation limits are either unchanged or may, in fact, be reduced from those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). This finding is applicable to the proposed change for Indian Point 2.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any other alternatives would have equal or greater environmental impacts and need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission has concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated February 6, 1992, as supplemented September 17, 1992, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. and at the local public document room located at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10610.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of September 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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