

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

7590-01

IOWA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
CENTRAL IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
CORN BELT POWER COOPERATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain testing requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company (IELP/the licensee) for the Duane Arnold Energy Center located at the licensee's site in Linn County, Iowa.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from certain requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for Type B and C testing of certain valves, vents, drains, sumps and penetrations which maintain containment integrity at design basis accident conditions. The exemption is strictly schedular in that it would allow a 75-day extension of the 2-year test interval required by Appendix J for the above components.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The licensee shut down for its Cycle 8 refueling outage on February 2, 1985 and was scheduled to shut down for its Cycle 9 refueling outage on February 1, 1987. However, because of an unanticipated 11-week outage extension in 1985, the shutdown for Cycle 9 refueling and other modifications has been extended to mid-March, 1987 if the unit operates continuously. This will cause IELP to exceed the 2-year test interval required by Appendix J for Type B and C testing of certain components.

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Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption affects only the interval between the test of certain components required to assure containment integrity. Because the operational period of these components will be shortened due to the aforementioned 11 week Cycle 8 refueling outage extension, there is no anticipated decrease in the reliability of these components to operate as designed in the event of an accident. Post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluent or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require rigid compliance with the 2-year test interval for Type B and C components required in Appendix J. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

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

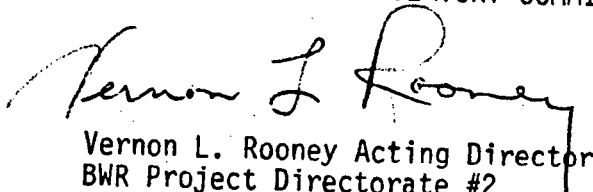
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letters dated October 31, 1986 and January 2, 1987. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First Street, S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 27th day of January 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Vernon L. Rooney Acting Director
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