

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-237/249ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from the requirements of Section III.G.1 of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to the Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo) (the licensee) for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, located at the licensee's site in Grundy County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would grant exemptions from requirements of Section III.G.1 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 relating to proposed repairs, i.e., pulling of fuses and/or replacing blown fuses, for achieving and maintaining hot shutdown of the plant following certain fire scenarios. The licensee requested exemption from the III.G.1 requirement, that one train of systems needed for hot shutdown be free of fire damage, insofar as the requirement is interpreted as disallowing repairs for achieving and maintaining hot shutdown. These exemptions were determined by the licensee to be necessary at Dresden during a reverification program initiated in response to Commission clarification of Appendix R requirements.

The Need for the Proposed Action: When the reverification program indicated the need for additional modifications, necessary engineering and procurement were required by CECo. Among other things, the licensee proposed an alternate safe shutdown procedure which required that fuses be pulled or blown fuses replaced in order to achieve and maintain hot shutdown.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is related to the method of achieving and maintaining hot shutdown in case of a fire in certain areas. The exemption would permit certain fuses to be pulled or certain fuses to be replaced. The exemption would be necessary for the implementation of hot shutdown. Thus, fire-related radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluent or occupational exposures. 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 Section III.G.1 of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 requirements. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unjustified costs for the licensee.

Alternative Use Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Dresden Units 2 and 3.

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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 letter dated August 10, 1984 as supplemented March 1, August 9 and September 18, 1985, and January 9, March 12, March 20 and May 30, 1986 and April 14, 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 Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60451.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 18th day of September 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

for Marshall Gorton
Daniel R. Muller, Director
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V, and Special Projects