

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYDRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3DOCKET NO. 50-249NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF 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-25 issued to Commonwealth Edison Company, for operation of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, located in Grundy County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would consist of a change to the operating license to extend the expiration date of the operating license to January 12, 2011 for Dresden Unit 3. The proposed license amendment is responsive to the licensee's application dated September 29, 1986. The Commission's staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the proposed action, "Environmental Assessment by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Relating to the Change in Expiration Date of Facility Operating License DPR-25. Commonwealth Edison Company, Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, Docket Number 50-249, dated February 26, 1990."

Summary of Environmental Assessment:

The Commission's staff has reviewed the potential environmental impact of the proposed change in the expiration date of the Operating License for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3. This evaluation considered the previous environmental studies, including the Final Environmental Statement for the Dresden Station dated November 1973, and more recent NRC policy.

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Radiological Impacts:

The staff concludes that the Exclusion Area, the Low Population Zone and the nearest population center distances will likely be unchanged from those described in the November 1973 Final Environmental Statement. Dresden Station is located in a relatively low populated area. The low population zone (LPZ) is approximately the area enclosed by an 8000 meter (5-mile) radius from the plant. The population in the area surrounding the site has grown at a somewhat faster rate than projected in the FES for the year 1980 (10,415 compared to 8,048 projected). Current projections of population within the 50-mile radius of the station are lower than the projection in the FES. The FES population projection within the 50-mile radius for 1980 was 8,070,978 which is 28 percent greater than the 1980 census figures for the area which total 6,301,641. The FES population projection within the 50-mile radius for the year 2000 was 12,900,000. The current population prediction (based on projections from the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, State of Illinois Bureau of the Budget, and Northeast Indiana Planning Commission) to the year 2010 is 7,366,584 which is less than the FES 50-mile projection for both 1980 and 2000. There are no expected changes to the site boundary, low population zone, or population center distances. This small increase in the number of people living within the 5-mile zone, the lower than projection population increase within the 50-mile radius, and the continuing rural nature of the area indicate that the numbers of people living around and within the vicinity of the plant should pose no problem to the proposed extension of the operating license.

The additional period of plant operation would not significantly affect the probability or consequences of any reactor accident. Station radiological effluents to unrestricted areas during normal operation have been well within

Commission regulations regarding as-low-as-is-reasonably-achievable (ALARA) limits, and are indicative of future releases. The proposed additional years of reactor operation do not increase the annual public risk from reactor operation.

With regard to normal plant operation, the occupational exposures for the Dresden Nuclear Station have closely followed the national average for boiling water reactors. The licensee is striving for dose reductions in accordance with ALARA principles and the staff expects further reductions to be achieved using advanced technologies and equipment that will likely be available.

Accordingly, annual radiological impacts on man, both offsite and onsite, are not more severe than previously estimated in the FES, and our previous cost-benefit conclusions remain valid.

The environmental impacts attributable to transportation of fuel to and waste from the Dresden Nuclear Station with respect to normal conditions of transport and possible accidents in transport, would be bounded as set forth in Summary Table S-4 of 10 CFR Part 51.52. The values in Table S-4 would continue to represent the contribution of transportation to the environmental costs associated with plant operation.

Non-Radiological Impacts:

The Commission has concluded that the proposed extension will not cause a significant increase in the impact to the environment and will not change any conclusions reached by the Commission in the FES.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

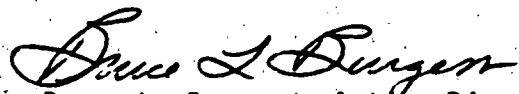
The Commission has reviewed the proposed change to the expiration date of the Dresden Nuclear Station, Unit 3, facility operating license relative to the

requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based upon the environmental assessment, the staff concluded that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that the proposed license amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated September 29, 1986, (2) the Final Environmental Statement for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, issued November 1973, and (3) the Environmental Assessment dated February 26, 1990. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of February 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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