

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY
DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-315 AND 50-316
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an Exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E to Indiana Michigan Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Berrien County, Michigan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the schedular requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. On May 24, 1991, the licensee requested an exemption from Section IV.F.3, which requires that each licensee at each site shall exercise with offsite authorities such that the State and local government emergency plans for each operating reactor site are exercised biennially, with full or partial participation by State and local governments, within the plume exposure pathway emergency planning zone (EPZ).

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has requested that the State of Michigan and the licensee re-schedule the offsite participation portion of the annual emergency preparedness exercise for D. C. Cook, Units 1 and 2 from November 1992 until May 1993.

The current schedule requires the State of Michigan to participate in one offsite exercise one year and in three offsite exercises during the next year. This places an uneven workload on the FEMA Region V office which evaluates the offsite aspects of the exercises.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption will move the State and Berrien County participation from the November 1992 exercise to the May 1993 exercise. The November 1992 exercise would then become a utility only exercise.

The affected local jurisdiction, Berrien County, participates in both the Palisades and Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises. The schedule change would not reduce the number of REP exercises in which Berrien County participates.

Because of the requested change, the licensee for D. C. Cook would not meet the requirement in 1992 that "each licensee at each site shall exercise with offsite authorities...", however, the State of Michigan and Berrien County will still exercise with the Palisades Nuclear Plant as scheduled and would exercise with the D. C. Cook licensee in May 1993 approximately six months later than scheduled. The proposed exemption is temporary and is fully supported by the State of Michigan. The NRC's rating of licensee performance during previous REPs at D. C. Cook has been high and there is reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant.

Accordingly, the exemption does not appear to adversely affect either the probability or the consequences of an accident, 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. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined by 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

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

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in increased operational burden on FEMA Region V.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, dated August 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

By letter dated April 15, 1991, the State of Michigan documented the need of FEMA Region V Office and the support of FEMA headquarters for the requested exemption. The State of Michigan further indicated that neither they nor the

affected local jurisdiction, Berrien County, objected to the proposed schedule change. This information was considered by the NRC in the evaluation of the requested exemption.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT


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

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the 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 May 24, 1991, with the State of Michigan letter dated April 15, 1991, attached. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., and at the Maude Preston Palenske Memorial Library, 500 Market Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of July 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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