

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYDOCKET NO. 50-260NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.48(c)(4) to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA/the licensee), for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Unit 2 located in Limestone County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would grant the licensee a schedular deferment from the provisions of Appendix R, Section III.G, fire protection of the equipment used for safe shutdown capability, from the current cycle 5 refueling outage to the end of the cycle 6 refueling outage. The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated June 5, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Appendix R, Section III.G requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to provide fire protection for equipment used for safe shutdown by means of separation and barriers or provide alternative safe shutdown capability. The schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50.48(c)(4) call for the implementation of modifications before startup after the earliest of the following events commencing 180 days after Commission approval:

- (1) The first refueling outage;

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- (2) Another planned outage that lasts for at least 60 days; or
- (3) An unplanned outage that lasts for at least 120 days.

In a submittal dated June 5, 1984, the licensee requested that the implementation schedule for the proposed fire protection modification at Browns Ferry be extended in accordance with the proposed integrated schedule for plant modifications (TVA letter dated August 14, 1984). The integrated schedule calls for the modifications to be completed during the cycle 6 outage which is one cycle later than required by 10 CFR 50.48(c)(4), based on Commission approval of proposed modifications having been granted on October 12, 1983 (letter from D. B. Vassallo to H. G. Parris dated October 12, 1983).

The level of modification work associated with the current cycle 5 outage does not permit significant additional work to be added to the outage work scope without delaying restart of the plant. As an alternative to implementation of the required modifications during the current cycle 5 outage, the licensee has proposed interim compensatory fire protection measures to be instituted during cycle 6. These measures are being evaluated by the staff.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

By using reasonable interim compensatory measures, the proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no significant increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents.

Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 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 Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement dated September 2, 1972 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

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.

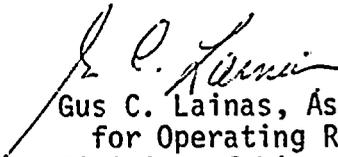
Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated June 5, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington,

D. C., and at the Athens Public Library, South and Forrest, Athens,
Alabama 35611.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 28th day of November, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing

