

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYBROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260, AND 50-296ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68 issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) for operation of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3. The units are located at the licensee's site in Limestone County, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications to reflect plant modifications which replace existing analog radiation monitoring equipment with digital components. The amendments were requested by the licensee's letters dated July 23, 1992, and April 6, 1993, with additional information provided by letter dated March 16, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments are required to permit the licensee to replace outmoded components with modern equipment.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments will not increase potential radiological environmental effects. Replacement of the existing analog radiation monitoring equipment with more reliable digital components will improve overall system performance, ensuring accurate information is provided to the plant operators, and proper performance of safety equipment that relies upon

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this monitoring equipment for its actuation. The system is designed such that in the event of system failure, the system output defaults to a safe condition, ensuring safety equipment function is not compromised.

With regard to potential non-radiological environmental impact, the proposed amendment involves systems located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed amendments do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there is no significant non-radiological environmental impact associated with the proposed amendments.

Since it does not involve adverse radiological or other environmental impacts, the Commission concludes the proposed amendments do not significantly change the conclusions of the licensee's "Final Environmental Statement, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3", dated September 1, 1972.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

The principal alternative would be to deny the proposed amendments. This would require the licensee to continue to operate the existing equipment, or replace it with similar analog equipment. Because the staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed amendments, these alternatives will have either no significantly different environmental impact, or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement, Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3", dated September 1, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request for amendment dated July 23, 1992, as supplemented March 16, 1993 and April 6, 1993. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

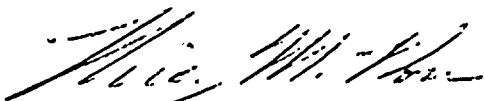
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendments. 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 details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's request for amendments dated July 23, 1992, as supplemented on March 16, 1993 and April 6, 1993, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington DC, and at the Athens Public Library, South Street, Athens, Alabama, 35611.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 9th day of April 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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