

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY  
DOCKET NOS. 50-454, 50-455, 50-456, AND 50-457  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF  
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to the licenses for the Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo, the licensee) for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Ogle County, Illinois, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Will County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specification Figure 3.2-2 which depicts the normalized heat flux hot channel factor as a function of core height.

These revisions to the licenses of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, would be made in response to the licensee's application for amendment dated December 4, 1987.

The Need For The Proposed Action:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, the licensee has proposed amendments to Facility Operating Licenses NPF-37 and NPF-66 for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively and Facility Operating Licenses NPF-72 and NPF-77 for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments would modify Technical Specification Figure 3.2-2 to include more operating margin. This resulted from removing some conservatism when the small break loss of coolant accident analysis was repeated for the hot leg temperature reduction program.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed amendments. The modification to Figure 3.2-2 is acceptable since the analyses on which it is based used acceptable codes and the results of these analyses meet the criteria of 10 CFR 50.46. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, 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. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves systems located 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 amendment.

Accordingly, the Commission findings in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2" dated April 1982 and in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2" dated June 1984, regarding environmental impacts from the plants during normal operation or after accident conditions, are not adversely altered by this action.

Alternative to the Proposed Actions:

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This alternative, in effect, would be the same as a "no action" alternative. Since the Commission has concluded that no adverse environmental effects are associated with this proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Final Environmental Statements related to these facilities.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's submittal of December 4, 1987 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 license amendment.

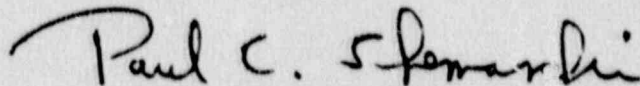
Based upon this environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Prior Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 1987 (52 FR 49540). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated December 4, 1987 and the Final Environmental Statements for Byron, dated April 1982, and Braidwood, dated June 1984; which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555; the Rockford Public Library, 215 N. Wyman Street, Rockford, Illinois 61101; and the Wilmington Township Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of September 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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