

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY, ET AL\*

DOCKET NO. 50-445

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24 to Texas Utilities Electric Company, et al (the applicant). The exemption would apply to the facility operating license for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Unit 1 (the facility) located on the applicant's site in Somervell County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would allow an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24 for the operation of Comanche Peak, Unit 1 in response to the applicant's request dated June 30, 1989.

- 
- \* The current owners of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station are: Texas Utilities Electric Company (TU Electric), Tex-La Electric Cooperative of Texas, Inc. (Tex-La), and Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA). Transfer of ownership from TMPA to TU Electric was previously authorized by Amendment No. 9 to Construction Permit CPPR-126 for Comanche Peak, Unit 1 on August 25, 1988 to take place in 10 installments as set forth in the agreement attached to the application for amendment dated March 4, 1988. At the completion thereof, TMPA will no longer retain any ownership interest in Comanche Peak, Unit 1. Transfer of ownership from Tex-La to TU Electric was previously authorized by Amendment No. 11 to Construction Permit CPPR-126 for Comanche Peak, Unit 1 on August 29, 1989 as set forth in the agreement attached to the application for Amendment dated May 4, 1989. At the completion thereof, Tex-La will no longer retain any ownership interest in Comanche Peak, Unit 1.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The exemption from 10 CFR 70.24 would allow irradiated or unirradiated fuel assemblies to be handled and stored in the Comanche Peak fuel handling building without having a monitoring system which will energize clearly audible alarms if accidental criticality occurs. This exemption will be deemed acceptable provided that no more than two fuel assemblies are outside an approved shipping container, storage rack, or fuel transfer tube at any time and a minimum 12-inch, edge-to-edge distance is maintained between such assemblies. The proposed exemption is needed to permit fueling and refueling operations at Comanche Peak without the criticality monitoring systems specified by 10 CFR 70.24(a).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: There are no environmental impacts of the proposed action. Criticality will be precluded by the restriction that no more than two fuel assemblies shall be authorized to be outside of an approved shipping container, storage rack, or the fuel transfer tube at any one time and a minimum 12-inch, edge-to-edge distance is maintained between such assemblies. Because these measures provide assurance that criticality will not occur during receipt, inspection, or storage of fuel, this is an acceptable alternative to a monitoring system. Since the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents nor cause any significant occupational exposures, the Commission concludes that there are no radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves systems located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The proposed exemption 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: The Commission has concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption. The principal alternative would be for the Commission to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of the plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (NUREG-0775), dated September 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this exemption for Comanche Peak, Unit 1. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons in preparing this assessment.

#### 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 Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the applicant's request for exemption dated June 30, 1989. This document is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20555, and at the Local Public Document Room at the

Somervell County Public Library on the Square, P. O. Box 1417, Glen Rose, Texas 76043. The Commission's evaluation of the request will be published in the Safety Evaluation Report related to the operation of Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (NUREG-0797), Supplement No. 22, and will be available for inspection at the locations listed above.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 6th day of November, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Christopher I. Grimes*  
Christopher I. Grimes, Director  
Comanche Peak Project Division  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation