

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL
SUPPORTING THE REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE
DATES FOR COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF
LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 1 (CPPR-99)
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. 50-373

1. Description or proposed Action

The action requested is the issuance of an ORDER pertaining to the LaSalle County Station (LSCS), Unit No. 1. The ORDER would extend for 10 months the latest date for completion of Unit No. 1.

The construction permit for Unit 1 (CPPR-99) would be extended from a latest completion date of June 30, 1981 to April 30, 1982.

2. Summary Description of the Probable Impacts of the Proposed Action

The environmental impacts associated with construction of LSCS have been previously addressed in the NRC staff's final environmental statement, construction permit stage (FES-CP) issued February, 1973, addressed in the NRC staff's final environmental statement, operation license stage (FES-OL) issued November, 1978, and determined by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in their Initial Decisions dated September 5, 1973 (6 AEC 645) and March 18, 1974 (7 AEC 289), and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board in their decisions of October 19, 1973 (ALAB 153, 6 AEC 821, affirmed 6 AEC 1072), and April 15, 1974 (ALAB 193, 7 AEC 423).

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board identified in the Initial Decision the following five major effects due to construction:

- A. Dredging and construction of facilities on the Illinois River will have an impact on the river bottom and channel.
- B. The construction of the cooling lake and the station itself will involve major earthmoving and will generate some noise and dust.
- C. Short-term traffic problems may occur.
- D. Ancillary activities such as transmission line and rail spur construction, and the increased use of local roads may create minor impacts.

E. Station-related construction will temporarily remove ninety acres of land from agricultural production.

The first two construction related effects noted above have already occurred. The dredging and construction of river facilities were completed in 1975. The major earthmoving activities were completed in 1976. Therefore, because these major construction effects have already occurred, the construction permit extensions will not add to impacts in these areas.

In respect to the third effect, the construction work force has already peaked during the third quarter of 1978, thus, local community-related impacts (such as traffic congestion) have already reached a maximum and are now declining.

In relation to the fourth construction effect noted above, the rail spur has been completed, station-related heavy components have already been transported to the site and all transmission line structure construction has been completed and conductor stringing is scheduled to be completed prior June 30, 1981, the current Construction Permit (CPPR-99) expiration date.

The last effect (#E) mentioned above will generally be postponed as a result of the construction permit extensions. However, 120 acres of land on the station site have already been returned to agricultural production.

In summary, the environmental impact resulting from extending the construction permit will be either a postponement or continuation of certain identified and evaluated impacts mentioned above (effects C, D, and E above) or have already occurred (effects A and B).

The Appeals Board highlighted another impact due to construction: The creation of the cooling lake which resulted in the removal of approximately 2058 acres of arable farmland from agricultural use. This impact has already occurred, and the extension of the construction permits, therefore, will result in no further adverse effect relative to changes in land use.

Subsequent to construction of the cooling lake, significant erosion was identified downstream from the station site along the banks of a drainage creek called Armstrong Run. The run has been reseeded and vegetation has been established on the dike that insures maximum flows in the run will be less than preconstruction levels. This construction effect has been corrected and should not recur.

On May 23, 1979, in a letter from C. Reed to O. Parr, the NRC was notified of the existence of erosion on certain portions of the make-up and blowdown water pipeline corridor. Reshaping of the affected areas occurred in August of 1979, followed by seeding in September. The construction permit extensions would not result in any additional erosion impacts.

The blowdown line ruptured on January 23, 1980 at Station 125 + 00 (about 2 miles from the Illinois River). The water flowed across Edison property damaging a driveway and depositing silt in a drainage ditch.

The pipeline was repaired by February 12, 1980. The driveway was repaired and ditch dredged in March, 1980. The pertinent areas were reseeded in June 1980.

This construction effect has been corrected and should not recur.

The monitoring program at groundwater observation wells around the cooling pond have indicated a general rise in water levels. We will continue to monitor these wells until it has been determined if it is a construction effect or not. If it is a construction effect, methods to alleviate the situation will be investigated. In as much as the cooling pond has been filled since 1978, the effect, if any, will have already occurred and extension of the construction permit would not result in any additional impacts.

3. Conclusion and Basis for Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the above, it is concluded that there will be no significant impacts attributable to the requested action other than those already predicted and described in the FES-CP issued in February, 1973, the FES-OL issued in November, 1978, the Board's Initial Decisions issued in September, 1973 and March, 1974, subsequent Appeal Board Decisions, or described herein.