

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

VALLECITOS BOILING WATER REACTOR

DOCKET NO. 50-18

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an exemption from the revised 10 CFR 50.120 requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations to the General Electric Company (the licensee) for the Vallecitos Boiling Water Reactor (VBWR), pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the training requirements of 10 CFR 50.120. By letter dated July 18, 1993, the General Electric Company (GE) identified the special conditions that exist at the VBWR as the basis for this exemption request.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

VBWR is a 50 MW boiling water reactor that permanently ceased power operations in 1962. The nuclear fuel has been removed from the reactor and shipped offsite. VBWR was issued a possession-only license in 1965 and the plant is currently in SAFSTOR until the year 2016. An exemption would relieve the licensee from the training requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.120, which are not applicable at a reactor that has no nuclear fuel on site and

080150

9402100164 931117
PDR ADOCK 05000018
W PDR

DF03 9/1

that is in SAFSTOR. However, an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.120 does not relieve the licensee from previous requirements or commitments to train and qualify facility personnel.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.120 does not have any effect on accidents previously analyzed in the NRC approved "Final Report on Deactivation of the Vallecitos Boiling Water Reactor." There is no nuclear fuel on site and there are no credible accident scenarios that could result in offsite doses that would exceed a small fraction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Protective Action Guidelines." The proposed action does not increase the probability or consequences of any accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluent that may be released offsite, and there is no change in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures on-site. Accordingly, the NRC concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not effect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the NRC concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered for VBWR.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the exemption request. No other agencies or personnel were contacted.

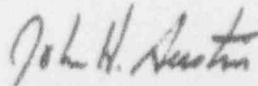
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based upon this environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the NRC will not prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, the licensee's letter dated July 18, 1993, and the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation, included in the exemption, are available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington DC 20037.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 17th day of November, 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



John H. Austin, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory
Issues Branch
Division of Low-Level Waste Management
and Decommissioning
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards