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[7590-01]

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-133

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 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee) for the Humboldt Bay Power Plant (HBPP), 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 28, 1993, the licensee identified the special conditions that exist at the HBPP as the basis for this exemption request.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

HBPP is a boiling water reactor that permanently ceased power operations in 1984. The fuel was removed from the reactor and placed in the spent fuel pool. A possession-only licensee was issued in 1985. HBPP is currently in SAFSTOR. This exemption would relieve the licensee from the training requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.120, that are not applicable for a reactor that has been defueled and in SAFSTOR. However, it does not relieve the licensee from previous requirements or commitments to train and qualify facility personnel.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action does not have any effect on accidents previously analyzed in the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for decommissioning HBPP. The licensee stated that the nuclear fuel is stored in the spent fuel pool. In addition, 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" as evaluated in the SER.

The proposed action would not change the types of effluents that may be released offsite, and there would be no significant increase 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 staff 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 HBPP.

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 28, 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, and at Humboldt County Library, 421 I Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this *19th* day of *November*, 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


John H. Austin, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory
Issues Branch
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and Decommissioning
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