

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADOFORT ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-267ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4) to Possession-Only License No. DPR-34, issued to the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC or the licensee), for the Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station (FSV) located in Platteville, Colorado.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirements from 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4) to the extent that primary financial protection in the amount of \$100,000,000 shall be maintained, rather than the \$200,000,000 required by 10 CFR 140.11(a)(4), and an exemption from participation in the industry retrospective rating plan (secondary level financial protection) for FSV. The licensee requested the exemption in a letter dated February 25, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

FSV was permanently shutdown on August 18, 1989, and all spent fuel has been transferred to a separately licensed independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). On May 21, 1991, the NRC modified Facility Operating

License No. DPR-34 to a Possession-Only License (POL). The FSV is being dismantled in accordance with the approved FSV Decommissioning Plan. The requested exemption addresses two areas for relief in financial protection requirements: (1) a reduction in the primary financial protection coverage requirements from \$200,000,000 to \$100,000,000 and (2) withdrawal from participation in the industry retrospective rating plan.

Since FSV no longer contributes as great a risk to the retrospective rating plan participants as an operating plant, this reduction in risk should be reflected in the indemnification requirements to which the licensee is subject. Approval of this request would allow a more equitable allocation of financial risk.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action does not involve any significant environmental impacts. Since the proposed action does not involve a change in plant operation or configuration, there is reasonable assurance that the proposed action would not increase the probability or the consequences of an accident or reduce the margin of safety. No changes would be made in the types or quantities of effluents that may be released offsite. Further, there would be no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative radiation exposure. 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 affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the NRC concludes that there are no significant non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the NRC has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Supplement to the Environmental Report for FSV.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The licensee initiated this exemption request. The NRC staff has reviewed the request and has consulted with a representative of the State of Colorado regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State representative did not provide comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

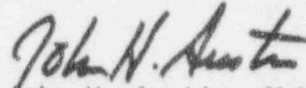
Based upon this environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee application for exemption dated February 25, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, Gelman Building,

2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555, and at the Greeley Public Library, City Complex Building, Greeley, Colorado.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 3rd day of February, 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



John H. Austin, Chief
Decommissioning and Regulatory
Issues Branch
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