

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONVIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-281ENVIRONMENTAL 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 Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) for Surry Power Station, Unit No. 2, located in Surry County, Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would grant a one-time relief from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, paragraph III.D.3 to perform Type C tests within a 2-year interval. In addition, related changes to the Technical Specifications would be forthcoming. The requested exemption would allow the licensee to defer the Type C testing until the next refueling outage scheduled for early April 1991, but no later than June 30, 1991.

The licensee's request for exemption and bases therefor are contained in a letter dated September 14, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from performing Type C tests for valves which would otherwise require testing between September 18, 1990 and April 1991 and enable Surry Unit 2 to continue normal plant operation and therefore prevent the premature shutdown of the Surry Power Station, Unit 2.

The purpose of the Type C testing is to measure and ensure that the leakage through the primary reactor containment does not exceed the maximum allowable leakage rate. It also provides assurance that periodic surveillance, maintenance and repairs are made to systems or components penetrating the containment. During the last two Type C tests, the licensee took corrective actions for valve repair to reduce valve leakage. In addition, the licensee has provided projected valve leakage estimates which the NRC has reviewed. The staff finds that the methodology used for estimating the leakage for the extended period is acceptable.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from the schedular requirements to perform Type C tests within a 2-year period. The licensee has taken corrective action to repair valves during the last two Type C tests to minimize valve leakage. The proposed exemption will not negatively impact containment integrity and will not significantly change the risk from facility accidents. Therefore, post-accident radiological releases will not be significantly greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the proposed exemption would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because it has been concluded that there are no measurable impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impacts or greater environmental impacts.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Surry Unit 2 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Surry Power Station, Unit 2 which was issued in June 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

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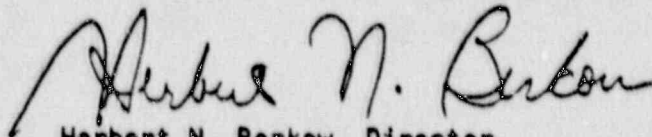
The staff has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, dated September 14, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 17th day of September 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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