

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING  
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO  
DOCKET NO. 50-267

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the emergency preparedness requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(q) to the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC or the licensee) for the Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station (FSV).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

The exemption will delete the requirements for offsite emergency response in the Emergency Response Plan.

FSV was permanently shutdown on August 18, 1989 and partial reactor defueling completed on February 7, 1990. The reduced fuel quantity in the core combined with physical and administrative restrictions on control rod movement prevents FSV from being taken critical or operating.

Need for Proposed Action

The exemption is needed to eliminate requirements that were appropriate for an operating plant but are not needed at the permanently shutdown FSV facility. Granting the proposed exemption would relieve PSC from the unnecessary financial burden of performing offsite emergency preparedness activities and planning as required by 10 CFR 50.54(q).

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The proposed action to delete requirements for, offsite emergency planning and response will have no environmental impact because FSV is permanently shutdown and the worst case accident would result in radiation exposures that were less than the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Protective Action Guides. The licensee's analysis demonstrated that the potential risk to the public is now significantly reduced and the range of credible accidents and accident consequences are limited after the permanent shutdown and during the defueling of FSV. The worst case accident for this facility is the dropping of a loaded spent fuel shipping cask in the reactor building. The licensee's analysis showed a two hour exposure of 0.19 mrem whole body gamma dose at 100 meters. PSC concluded that based upon the consequences of this worst case accident, the highest emergency classification that can occur is an Alert. Therefore, it would be appropriate to reduce the scope of the FSV emergency preparedness plan by eliminating offsite emergency response, while maintaining the emergency response capability necessary for onsite response to an Alert emergency classification.

The NRC staff has independently calculated the offsite dose resulting from a fuel handling accident and determined that the two hour whole body gamma dose would be 0.3 mrem at 100 meters. This value agrees with the licensee's exposure dose and is a small fraction of the EPA's Protective Action Guideline of one (1) rem whole body gamma dose from exposure to airborne radioactive materials. Under these circumstances, the staff has determined that the offsite emergency response plan is not required.

In addition, the requested exemption would not authorize construction or operation, and would not authorize a change in licensed activities or effect changes in the permitted types or amounts of radiological effluents. With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

#### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption, alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative to the exemption is to require the licensee to maintain both its onsite and offsite emergency plans consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(q). However, the Commission has determined that there are no credible accidents which could result in a radiological release which would require protective actions for the public. Requiring the maintenance of both its onsite and offsite emergency plans consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(q) would impose an unnecessary financial burden and would not enhance protection of the public or the environment.

#### Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for FSV.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The licensee initiated this exemption action. The NRC staff is reviewing their request. No other agencies or persons were consulted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

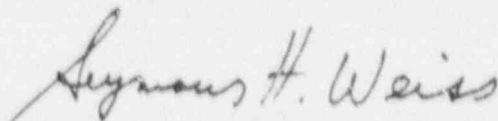
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

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.

For details with respect to this action, see the licensee's application dated June 15, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Greeley Public Library, City Complex Building, Greeley, Colorado 80631.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 19th day of December 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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