

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITYSEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2DOCKET NO. 50-328ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from a requirement of Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee) for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. The unit is located at the licensee's site in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The exemption was requested by the licensee in its letter dated August 31, 1990.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow the licensee relief from the provision of Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J that requires that the third test of each set of three Type A, or containment integrated leak rate, tests for a 10-year service period shall be conducted when the unit is shutdown for the 10-year unit inservice inspection (ISI). In its letter, the licensee requested an exemption for Unit 2 to separate the third test of each 10-year service period from the 10-year ISI. This exemption would allow the third test of each 10-year service period and the 10-year ISI to be scheduled separately for Unit 2.

The third Type A test for Unit 2 for the first 10-year service period is scheduled for the Unit 2 Cycle 5 refueling outage (i.e., April to May, 1992). The 10-year ISI is not related to the integrity of the containment pressure boundary and is currently scheduled for 1993 in accordance with Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code and with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4). TVA stated that it intends to conduct the Unit 2 10-year ISI during the Unit 2 Cycle 6 refueling outage (i.e., October to November, 1993). The first 10-year ISI for Unit 2 is, therefore, scheduled for a future refueling outage rather than the Unit 2 Cycle 5 refueling outage. Each future 10-year ISI will, therefore, also be scheduled for a different outage than the outage for the third Type A test of any 10-year service period.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is required to permit the licensee to uncouple the third Type A test for a 10-year service period from the 10-year ISI for Unit 2 only.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

With respect to the requested exemption, the relief from the above requirement of Appendix J would only permit the licensee to conduct the third Type A test in a 10-year service period and the 10-year ISI in different outages. The 10-year ISI would be conducted at an outage later than the Type A test. With regard to potential radiological environmental impacts, the proposed exemption would not allow the licensee to operate Unit 2 longer nor at a higher power level than allowed by the operating license for the unit. Neither the probability of accidents nor the radiological releases from an accident will be increased because the proposed exemption does not reduce any requirements on containment integrity nor on the 10-year ISI. The proposed

exemption does not increase the radiological effluents from the facility and does not increase the occupational exposure at the facility. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological environmental impacts, the proposed exemption involves systems located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Therefore, the proposed exemption does not significantly change the conclusions in the licensee's "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," (FES) dated February 21, 1974. The Commission concluded that operation of the Sequoyah units will not result in any environmental impacts other than those evaluated in the FES in its letter to the licensee dated September 15, 1981 which granted the Facility Operating License DPR-79 for Unit 2.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of Unit 2 operations.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2," dated February 21, 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request dated August 31, 1990 that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

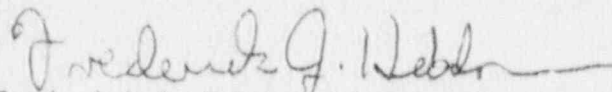
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission 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 details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for the exemption dated August 31, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC, and at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1007 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 17th day of January 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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