

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTDOCKET NO. 50-298COOPER NUCLEAR STATIONENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the revocation of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 previously issued to the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD or the licensee) for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), located in Nemaha County, Nebraska.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revoke an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50, previously issued to the licensee on September 21, 1983.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request for withdrawal of the exemption dated December 16, 1994.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to eliminate an unnecessary commitment by the licensee to upgrade certain fire barriers, which was made in connection with the exemption in question regarding the Critical Switchgear Rooms 1F and 1G on the 932 foot elevation of the reactor building.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed revocation of exemption is appropriate. The revocation of the exemption would allow the licensee to change a previous commitment to upgrade the fire barriers for the electrical bus duct penetrations in Critical Switchgear Rooms 1F and 1G. This commitment formed part of the basis upon which the staff granted the previous exemption.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an

alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the requested withdrawal of the exemption. Denial of the requested action would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Cooper Nuclear Station, dated February 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 21, 1995, the staff consulted with the Nebraska State official, Ms. Julia Schmidt, Division of Radiological Health, Nebraska Department of Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

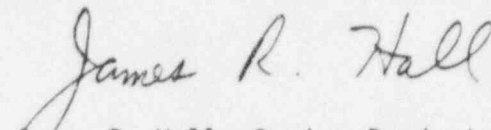
Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for withdrawal of exemption dated December 16, 1994, and the exemption dated September 21, 1983, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW.,

Washington, DC, and at the Commission's Local Public Document Room at the Auburn Public Library, 118 15th Street, Auburn, Nebraska 68305.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of August 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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