

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. 50-461

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) is considering issuance of an Exemption and an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62, issued to the Illinois Power Company (IP), and Soyland Power Cooperative, Inc., (the licensee), for operation of the Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1 (CPS), located in Harp Township, DeWitt County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from requirements contained in section III.B.3 of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, which states, in part, that "... the combined leakage rate for all [containment] penetrations and valves subject to Type B and C tests shall be less than 0.60 La."

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's request for an exemption and an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 dated December 23, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed Exemption and an amendment to the license and a change to the Technical Specifications (TS) is needed since the strict application of the requirements of section III.B.3 of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, regarding local leak rate testing of the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) vacuum breaker line associated with containment penetration IMC-44 and the leakage rates associated with the valve packing and body-to-bonnet seal of test boundary valve 1E51-F374, is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule and would impose undue hardships to the licensee.

Testing of the test boundary valve 1E51-F374, which is located outside of containment in the RCIC vacuum breaker line associated with containment penetration IMC-44, would necessitate erecting and disassembling temporary scaffolding over the suppression pool each refueling outage, resulting in additional radiation exposure, additional generation of radioactive waste, and increasing the potential for introducing foreign objects into the suppression pool. This valve and its associated potential leakage pathways are included in the Integrated Leak Rate Testing (ILRT) boundary, and thus, any leakage through these pathways will be included in the total leakage rate measured during an ILRT.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has determined that granting the proposed exemption would not significantly increase the probability or amount of expected containment leakage and that containment integrity would thus be maintained.

Consequently, the probability of accidents would not be increased, nor would the post-accident radiological releases be greater than previously determined. Neither would the proposed exemption otherwise effect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves a change to surveillance and testing requirements. It does not effect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact.

Therefore, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the NRC staff concluded that there are no significant environmental effects associated with the proposed action, any alternatives would have either no or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to the facility but would result in additional costs to the licensee that far outweigh the benefits associated with additional testing.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Clinton Power Station, Unit 1", dated May 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

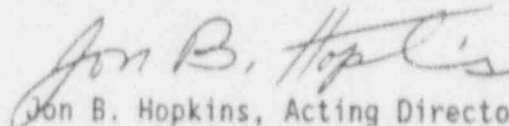
The NRC staff has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes 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 amendment dated December 23, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Vespasian Warner Public Library, 120 West Johnson Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of April, 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jon B. Hopkins, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation