

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKETS NOS. 50-277 and 50-278ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to the Philadelphia Electric Company, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Delmarva Power and Light Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, located in York County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would relax certain requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 as follows:

- a) The provisions of Section III.F requiring that automatic fire detection systems be installed in all areas of the plant that contain or present an exposure fire hazard to safe shutdown or safety-related systems or components would be relaxed to permit lack of early warning automatic fire detection in the main steam isolation valve (MSIV) rooms, chemical waste tank room, offgas line tunnel, and the diesel generator building supply enclosure. The fire load in these areas is low. If a fire were to occur in these areas, it would be detected by fire detectors in adjoining locations or by plant operators who would summon the fire brigade. The safety-related and safe shutdown equipment in these areas would not be prone to fire damage.

- b) The requirements of Subsection III.G.2 to provide a complete 3-hour rated fire barrier for the separation of redundant trains of equipment necessary for safe shutdown would be relaxed with respect to 1 1/2-hour fire rated dampers in 3-hour barriers. In each area where the 1 1/2-hour dampers are installed, early warning fire detection has been provided. The use of the existing 1 1/2-hour fire rated dampers and early warning fire detection systems provide a level of safety equivalent to the technical requirements of Section III.G.
- c) The requirements of Subsection III.G.2 to provide installation of automatic suppression systems would be relaxed in Fire Areas 05 and 12, 06 and 13, 47 and 48 and 25. In these areas, the combustible load is low, and early warning fire detection and manual fire suppression are available. The existing fire detection features together with a low combustible loading provide a level of fire protection equivalent to the technical requirements of Section III.G.
- d) The requirements of Subsection III.G.3 to provide installation of a fixed suppression system would be relaxed in Fire Area 29 (the Control Room). The control room is required to be continuously manned by operations personnel. These personnel constitute, in essence, a continuous fire watch. The fuel load in the area is low and manual suppression, if a fire occurred, would be prompt and effective. The continuously manned status of the control room together with a low fire load and prompt manual suppression provide a level of fire protection equivalent to the technical requirements of Section III.G. The exemptions are responsive to the licensees' applications for exemptions dated May 27, 1983, September 16, 1983, and December 21, 1983.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the existing design features relating to these fire protection items are the most practical methods for meeting the intent of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 and literal compliance would not significantly enhance fire protection capability at the facility.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection equivalent to that required by Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 such that there is no increase in the risk from fires at the facility. The probability of fires is not increased and post-fire radiological risk is not greater than determined previously and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect plant radiological effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this exemption.

The proposed exemption involves design features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR 20. It does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (operating license) for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The Commission's staff reviewed the licensees' request. The staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

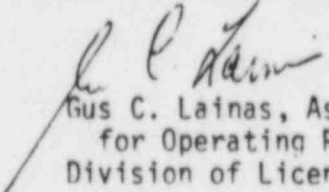
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

Based on 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 applications for exemptions dated May 27, 1983, September 16, 1983, and December 2, 1983. These documents are available for inspection by the public at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, Education Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 4th day of March 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director  
for Operating Reactors  
Division of Licensing