

Docket File

7590-01

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

BYRON STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the grant of an exemption from a portion of the requirements of Appendix E to Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee) for Byron Station, Unit 1, located at the licensee's site in Rockvale Township, Ogle County, Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The Exemption from Section IV.F of Appendix E would delay the conduct of a full participation offsite emergency planning exercise. Section IV.F of Appendix E requires that this exercise be conducted within one year before issuance of the first operating license at the site for full power and prior to operation above 5% of rated power. The first full participation emergency preparedness exercise for Byron was conducted on November 15, 1983.

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Need for Proposed Action: The proposed Exemption is required because Section IV.F of Appendix E would require that a full participation offsite emergency planning exercise be conducted within one year prior to exceeding five percent power. A license authorizing operation of Byron Unit 1 up to five percent of rated power was issued on October 31, 1984, but the licensee has not yet been issued a license authorizing operation above five percent of rated power. In its letter dated October 15, 1984 the licensee provided justification for delaying this exercise beyond the date of authorization of operation above five percent of rated power. The NRC staff has reviewed and accepted the licensee's request for exemption based upon the following factors:

- 1) favorable findings by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the November 1983 exercise;
- 2) the conduct of various drills which tested elements of the Byron Emergency Plan during 1984;
- 3) the successful participation by the State of Illinois in a 1984 emergency exercise at another nuclear reactor operated by the licensee (LaSalle); and
- 4) the scheduling of a Byron exercise for June 1985 which will include partial State participation and full local participation.

Accordingly, the NRC staff agrees that an exemption from Appendix E is appropriate.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action: The proposed Exemption would not affect the environmental impact of the facility because the level of emergency preparedness is not being degraded. The probability of an accident has not been increased and the post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined due to the proposed Exemption, nor does

the proposed Exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise the proposed Exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed Exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed Exemption, any alternatives to the relief will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested Exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of Byron Station, Unit 1 operations and would result in an unwarranted burden to the licensee and the State and local governments.

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 Operation of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2," dated April 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed Exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

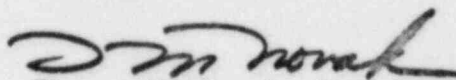
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed Exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for the Exemption dated October 15, 1984 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Rockford Public Library, Rockford, Illinois.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 5th day of February 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

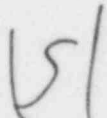


Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, 5th day of February 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

CONCURRENCES: *See previous concurrences

DL:LB#1	*DL:LB#1	*OELD	ALP
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2/4/85	1/19/85	2/14/85	2/5/85

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