

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYBYRON STATION, UNIT 1DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTAND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering granting of relief from certain requirements of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, as allowed by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i) 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 proposed action would provide relief to the licensee, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), from meeting certain requirements of the ASME Code for certain pumps and valves primarily in nuclear safety systems. The specific relief requests are identified in a letter dated November 16, 1984, which revises the program submitted by letter dated November 4, 1982 and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation Report, Supplement 5, for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2. Each such request proposes alternative tests and/or test frequencies for identified pumps and valves.

8412180643 841210
PDR ADOCK 05000454
P PDR

For example, relief has been requested for the accumulator check valves from the ASME code requirement that check valves be exercised for operability every 3 months. (See VR-5 in the November 16, 1984 letter.) The licensee states that these valves cannot be tested during unit operation because of the pressure differential across the valves. Instead, the licensee proposes to partial stroke test the valves during cold shutdown.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The ASME Code requires that the pumps and valves identified by licensees be tested at certain frequencies. However, limitations such as considerations of design, geometry, accessibility and unavailability of equipment make it impractical for licensees to meet certain of these requirements. Some of the required tests cannot be performed without placing the unit in a mode of operation that could lead to equipment damage or to unit shutdown. However, testing of these pumps and valves in accordance with the proposed alternative methods or at the proposed alternative frequencies will adequately ensure the operability of the equipment.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action: The proposed relief for testing of certain pumps and valves in accordance with the proposed alternative test frequencies or methods will adequately ensure the operability of the equipment. Imposition of the ASME Code requirements would result in hardships or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety. Because the proposed alternative test frequencies or methods will ensure operability of the equipment, 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 relief, nor does the proposed relief otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise the relief 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 relief.

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

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested relief. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of Byron Station, Unit 1 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility and unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources: These actions do 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 support the proposed relief. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

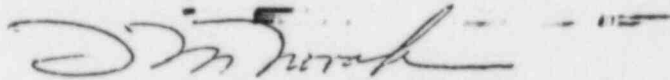
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 relief.

For further details with respect to the actions, see the licensee's request for relief dated November 16, 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 4th day of December 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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