

NOV 17 1978

EVALUATION OF A REQUEST FOR AN
EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
CPPR-81 and CPPR-82 FOR
MIDLAND PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2

A. Introduction

Construction Permits CPPR-81 and CPPR-82 were issued on December 15, 1972, and were further amended on May 23, 1973, for construction of Midland Plant Units 1 and 2 in Midland Township, Midland County, Michigan. The permittee, Consumers Power Company, requested in its letter of August 29, 1977 that Construction Permit CPPR-81 be amended to change the earliest and latest dates for completion of Midland Plant Unit 1 from December 1, 1977 and December 1, 1978 to October 1, 1981 and October 1, 1982. The permittee also requested that Construction Permit CPPR-82 be amended to change the earliest and latest dates for completion of Midland Plant Unit 2 from December 1, 1978 and December 1, 1979 to October 1, 1980 and October 1, 1981.

The permittee's letter of August 29, 1977 forwarded a "General Information" volume, stating that the delay in the original construction schedules is due to delaying factors beyond the permittee's control and stating the reasons for the delay. The permittee also provided additional information in response to our requests during meetings dated March 21 and 22, 1978, May 2, 1978, August 31, 1978 and November 6, 1978. The delaying factors are stated to be:

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1. Reevaluation of Construction Time Due to Changing Project Scope and Industry Experience

Project scope changed principally because of changed design and construction criteria for safety-related systems and structures. Experience from the industry indicated that more time was needed to design and construct Midland Plant, Units 1 and 2.

2. Switching Unit Completion Sequence

Midland Plant Unit 2 was rescheduled to be completed one year ahead of Midland Plant Unit 1 because of the engineering complexities of Unit 1 (which is the combined electric and process steam unit) and the earlier need for Unit 2 (which is the all electric unit) due to projected electrical load demand and the projected need for process steam.

3. Adverse Financial Conditions

Adverse financial conditions affecting the utility industry in 1974 and 1975 required adjustment of construction and engineering activities for Midland Plant Units 1 and 2 to match projected available financing.

4. Mobilization of the Architect - Engineer

Mobilization of the architect - engineer was rescheduled to begin after issuance of the Construction Permits to limit costs which could not have been recovered at a different site.

B. Good Cause and Reasonable Time

The NRC staff finds that the delaying factors cited above as reasons for the construction delay were unforeseen. The staff also finds that these factors constitute good cause for the requested extension. Based upon the estimate of the time required to perform the remaining work by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement and by the Caseload Forecast Panel, we believe the permittee's earliest estimate of the time to complete construction of the remaining work is not unreasonable, though slightly optimistic based on the past history of labor productivity. However, we concur that the construction permit extension request reflects a reasonable estimate of the time required to complete the remaining work, plus a reasonable allowance for additional delays which might result from the same or similar delaying factors cited above. However, in the event of unusual difficulties in correcting the settlement of certain structures recently discovered to be occurring at the site, this estimate may have to be revised.

In regard to the remaining work the NRC staff notes the following factors to be considered:

1. Many significant items of construction remain to be performed (e.g., the completion of the piping systems and the installation of the the safety-related electrical cables);

2. Almost none of the system and preoperational testing has been initiated;
and
3. Similar facilities have experienced long delays in the resolution
of technical problems associated with major systems.

While it is difficult to assess the potential impact of these factors, we conclude that the requested extension of the construction permits, barring unusual difficulties due to structural settlement recently observed at the site, provides sufficient margin for the permittee's estimate of the completion dates.

C. Significant Hazards Consideration

The staff finds that because the request is only for additional time to complete construction of a facility whose general design and design criteria have already been reviewed and approved, neither the probability nor the consequences of postulated accidents previously considered will be increased, nor will any safety margins associated with this facility be decreased. Accordingly, no significant hazards consideration is involved in granting the request and prior public notice of this action is not required.

D. Conclusions and Recommendations

For the reasons stated herein, the NRC staff concludes that the latest completion date for Construction Permit CPPR-81 should be extended from December 1, 1977, to October 1, 1982 and that Construction Permit CPPR-82 should be extended from December 1, 1979 to October 1, 1981.

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION
SUPPORTING: EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION
PERMITS NO. CPPR-81 AND CPPR-82 EXPIRATION DATES FOR
THE MIDLAND PLANT
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-329 AND 50-330

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has reviewed the Consumers Power Company (permittee) request to extend the expiration date of the construction permits for the Midland Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (CPPR-81 and CPPR-82) which is located in Midland County in the State of Michigan. The permittee requested a forty-six month extension to permit CPPR-81 through October 1, 1982 and a twenty two month extension to permit CPPR-82, through October 1, 1981, to allow for completion of construction of the plant.

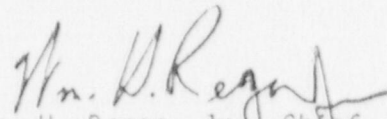
The Commission's Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis has prepared an environmental impact appraisal relative to these changes to CPPR-81 and CPPR-82. Based on this appraisal, the Commission has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no environmental impact attributable to the proposed action other than that which has already been described in the Commission's Final Environmental Statement - Construction Permit stage.

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The environmental impact appraisal is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Grace Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Road, Midland, Michigan.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 17th day of November 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Wm. H. Regan, Jr. Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL BY THE DIVISION OF
SITE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
NO. CPPR-81 AND CPPR-82, MIDLAND PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

Description of Proposed Action

By application of August 29, 1977 the applicant, Consumers Power Company (CPC), filed a request with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to extend the completion dates specified in Construction Permits No. CPPR-81 and CPPR-82 for the Midland Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The action proposed is the issuance of an order providing for an extension of the latest completion date of construction permit CPPR-81 from December 1, 1978 to and including October 1, 1982 and of Construction Permit CPPR-82 from December 1, 1979 to October 1, 1981. The NRC staff has reviewed the application and found that good cause has been shown for the requested extension of the completion dates specified in Construction Permits CPPR-81 and CPPR-82 for the Midland Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. (See attached Safety Evaluation by the NRC staff).

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

A. Need for the Facility

The Midland Plant, Unit No. 1 is now scheduled to begin commercial operation in March 1982; Unit No. 2 is scheduled to begin commercial operation in March 1981. As part of the operating licensing review of this plant the staff has closely followed CPC's need for generating capacity. Examination of the most recent information regarding loads and resources indicates that the conclusion reached in the Final Environmental Statement - Construction Permit stage (FES-CP) published in March 1972 (and supplemented in June 1977) regarding need for this plant is still valid.

The overall staff's conclusion that the plant should be constructed is unaffected by the extension of the construction permits.

B. Community and Economic Impacts

The FES-CP and the Final Supplement to the FES-CP for the Midland Plant include an assessment of potential environmental, economic, and community impacts due to site preparation and plant construction. In addition, (1) the staff's review of the inspection reports prepared by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement as a result of periodic inspection visits to the Midland site, and (2) staff's discussions

with individuals and local and state officials held at the time of the Operating License stage environmental review site visit did not identify any adverse impacts on the environment or the surrounding community which were not anticipated and adequately discussed in the FES-CP and its final supplement or which were significantly greater than those discussed in the FES-CP or the supplement.

The only effects possibly resulting from the requested extension would be those due to transposing the impacts in time or extending the total time the local community is subjected to temporary construction impacts. This in the staff's view will not result in any significant additional impact. The staff concludes that environmental impacts associated with construction of the plant described in the FES-CP and the final supplement to the FES-CP, are not affected by the proposed extension. Thus, no significant change in impact is expected to result from the extension.

Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and the NRC staff evaluation, it is concluded that, with the exception of impacts noted above, which are judged insignificant, the impacts attributable to the proposed action will be confined to those already predicted and described in the Commission's FES-CP issued in 1972 and the Final Supplement to the FES-CP issued in June 1977. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared, and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.