

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANYOGLETHORPE POWER CORPORATIONMUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AUTHORITY OF GEORGIACITY OF DALTON, GEORGIADOCKET NOS. 50-321 AND 50-366ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-57 and NPF-5, issued to Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, and City of Dalton, Georgia, (the licensee), for operation of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Appling County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications (TS) to: (1) Lower the minimum water level required for continued plant operation and change the point of measurement of water level from the river gauge to the pump intake structure; (2) Provide an alternate requirement for determination of equivalent river level when a temporary weir is in place; (3) Change the water level at which an increased frequency of level surveillance is required; (4) Change the plant service water pump throttling requirement for Unit 1 and add a corresponding pump throttling requirement for Unit 2; and (5) Amend the Technical Specification Bases to reflect the above changes.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated September 9, 1986, as supplemented by letter dated May 8, 1987, and partially revised on December 15, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the TS is required to enable the licensee to operate the plant at power during periods of low river water level while maintaining the capability for safe plant shutdown if required.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the Technical Specifications. The proposed changes would allow the licensee to adjust downward the water levels at which plant service water pump throttling and plant shutdown are required. However, the proposed adjusted water levels are still sufficient to assure protection of the pumps and to provide for adequate cooling to meet plant shutdown requirements. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no change in the allowable or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed changes to the TS involve systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity for Prior Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on November 12, 1986 (51 FR 41036). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, dated October 1972.

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

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.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated September 9, 1986, as supplemented by letter dated May 8, 1987, and partially revised by letter dated December 15, 1987, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Appling County Public Library, 301 City Hall Drive, Baxley, Georgia 31513.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of May 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:

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