



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 7, 2024

Scott Hunnewell  
Vice President  
New Nuclear Program  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
1101 Market Street  
LP 4A-C  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE EXEMPTION REQUEST REVIEW IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE (DOCKET NUMBER: 99902056)

Dear Scott Hunnewell:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed an environmental assessment (EA) and determined that a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is warranted for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) exemption request for the Clinch River Nuclear (CRN) Site. Specifically, TVA is requesting an exemption, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.12 "Specific Exemptions," to allow the conduct of certain excavation support activities at the CRN Site, which are otherwise not permitted by 10 CFR 50.10(c) prior to the issuance of a construction permit. The exemption request submitted by TVA on November 30, 2023, is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at ML23335A100. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. In addition, the EA can be found on the NRC Clinch River Nuclear Site website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/smr/licensing-activities/pre-application-activities/clinch-river.html>.

The EA and FONSI, "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Exemption Request to Allow Excavation at the Clinch River Nuclear Site Prior to Construction Permit Issuance," is publicly available at ML24312A321. The NRC has prepared this EA as part of its review of the exemption request in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a FONSI. The EA documents are the results of the staff's assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action as well as the no-action alternative to the proposed action. Based on this EA, the NRC staff has determined that there would be no significant environmental impact associated with granting the requested exemption, and an EIS need not be prepared.

The EA and FONSI were published on November 7, 2024. A copy of the EA is enclosed and has been forwarded on to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Giacinto by phone at 301-415-0714 or via email at [joseph.giacinto@nrc.gov](mailto:joseph.giacinto@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Barnhurst, Daniel  
on 11/07/24

Daniel Barnhurst, Chief  
Environmental Project Management Branch 3  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety  
and Safeguards

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