

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-285]

Omaha Public Power District, Fort Calhoun Station, Unit No. 1; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Omaha Public Power District, holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-40 for operation of the Fort Calhoun Station, Unit No. 1 located in Washington County, Nebraska.

Environmental Assessment Action*Identification of Proposed Action*

The proposed action would exempt Omaha Public Power District from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix R, Section III.O, with respect to certain unpressurized components. Section III.O requires reactor coolant pumps be equipped with an oil collection system if the containment is not inerted during normal operation. The collection systems shall be capable of collecting lube oil from all potential pressurized and unpressurized leakage sites in the reactor coolant pump lube oil systems. Leakage shall be collected and drained to a vented closed container that can hold the entire lube oil system inventory.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated September 30, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated January 29, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is needed because it would be extremely difficult for the licensee to design, install, and maintain the specified portions of the collection system due to location, arrangement, equipment interferences, and radiation dose as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) considerations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption. The unpressurized components at issue do not present a significant risk of oil leakage that could lead to fire in containment during normal or design basis accident conditions. The proposed action, therefore, will 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 significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) for the Fort Calhoun Station, Unit No. 1, dated August 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 27, 1998, the staff consulted with the Nebraska State official, Ms. Cheryl Rodgers of the Department of Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated September 30, 1997, and supplemental letter dated January 29, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, which is located at

The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the W. Dale Clark Library, 215 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Raynard Wharton,

Project Manager Project Directorate IV-2, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-12672 Filed 5-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket 72-1021]

Transnuclear, Inc.; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

By letter dated March 11, 1998, Transnuclear, Inc. (TN or applicant) requested an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.234(c). TN, located in Hawthorne, New York, is seeking Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) approval to fabricate five TN-32 dry spent fuel storage casks prior to receipt of a Certificate of Compliance (COC). The casks are intended for use under the general license provisions of subpart K of 10 CFR part 72 by Duke Power Company (Duke) at the McGuire Nuclear Station (McGuire) located in Cornelius, North Carolina. The TN-32 dry spent fuel storage cask is currently used at Surry Power Station under a site-specific license.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Identification of Proposed Action: The applicant is seeking Commission approval to fabricate five TN-32 casks prior to the Commission's issuance of a COC. The applicant requests an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.234(c), which state that "Fabrication of casks under the Certificate of Compliance must not start prior to receipt of the Certificate of Compliance for the cask model." The proposed action before the Commission is whether to grant this exemption under 10 CFR 72.7.

Need for the Proposed Action: TN requested the exemption to ensure the availability of storage casks so that Duke can maintain full core off-load capability at McGuire. McGuire Unit 2 will lose full core off-load capability in August 2000. McGuire has proposed an initial cask loading in September 2000.