

[Docket No. 50-414]

Duke Power Co., et al; Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2; 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 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, Paragraph III.D.1.(a), Type A Tests, to Duke Power Company, et al. (the licensee), for operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2, located in York County, South Carolina, in accordance with Facility Operating License No. NFP-35.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to address potential environmental issues related to the licensee's application dated May 18, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated May 31, 1995. The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, Paragraph III.D.1.(a), to the extent that a one-time schedular extension would permit rescheduling the third containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT) in the first 10-year service period from the end-of-cycle 7 outage until the end-of-cycle 8 outage. The requested exemption would also allow the decoupling of this third test from the endpoint of the first 10-year inservice inspection.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The current containment integrated leakage rate requirement for Catawba, Unit 2, pursuant to Appendix J, is that, after the preoperational leak rate preoperational leak rate test, a set of three Type A tests must be performed at approximately equal intervals during each 10-year period. Also, the third test of each set must be conducted when the plant is shut down for the 10-year plant inservice inspection. This is reflected in the Catawba Technical Specifications (TS) as a testing interval of once each 40 months plus or minus 10 months, for a frequency of three times in a 120-month period. To date, for Catawba Unit 2, the preoperational and the first two periodic ILRTs have been conducted. The most recent ILRT was conducted in February 1993, approximately 28 months ago. Thus, in accordance with appendix J and the current TS, an ILRT would have to be conducted during the refueling outage beginning in October 1995 (the end-of-cycle (EOC) 7 outage).

The licensee has requested an exemption from Appendix J and a corresponding change to the TS that would allow a one-time change to the interval for the Unit 2 ILRT from 40 plus or minus 10 months to less than or equal to 70 months. This would allow the EOC-7 ILRT to be rescheduled for EOC-8. Therefore, the need for the licensee's proposed action is to allow a longer interval between the Catawba Unit 2 second and third periodic Type A ILRTs, which will result in a cost savings to the licensee.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed one-time exemption would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed one-time exemption would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents. The licensee has analyzed the results of previous Type A tests performed at the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2. The licensee has provided an acceptable basis for concluding that the proposed one-time extension of the Type A test interval would maintain the containment leakage rates within acceptable limits. Accordingly, the Commission has concluded that the one-time extension does not result in a significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released nor does it result in a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption only involves Type A testing on the containment. 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 exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to this action would be to deny the request for exemption. Such action would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2," dated January 1983.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 6, 1995, the NRC staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Mr. M.K. Batavia, PE, Chief of the Bureau of Radiological Health, Department of Health and Environmental controls, 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 exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter dated May 18, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated May 31, 1995, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the York County Library, 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Dated at Rockville, MD this 15th day of June 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Herbert N. Berkow,

Director, Project Directorate II-2, Division of Reactor Projects-I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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Availability of Draft Application Format and Content Guidance and Review Plan and Acceptance Criteria for Non-Power Reactors

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in the process of developing for Non-Power Reactors (NPRs) a "Format and Content for Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors" (F&C) and a "Standard Review Plan and Acceptance Criteria for Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors" (SRP). The NRC has made available a draft of Chapter 15, "Financial Qualifications," of the F&C and SRP documents for comment. Other

draft chapters will be made available for comment as they are completed.

Copies of these chapters have been placed in the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555. Single copies of these documents may be requested in writing from Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS: 0-11-B-20, Washington, DC 20555. Comments on this chapter should be sent by Sept. 15, 1995, to the Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate at the above address.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 15th day of June 1995.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Seymour H. Weiss,

Director, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate, Division of Project Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Excepted Service

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This gives notice of positions placed or revoked under Schedules A and B, and placed under Schedule C in the excepted service, as required by Civil Service Rule VI, Exceptions from the Competitive Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Paige, (202) 606-0830.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management published its last monthly notice updating appointing authorities established or revoked under the Excepted Service provisions of 5 CFR 213 on May 30, 1995 (60 FR 28183). Individual authorities established or revoked under Schedules A and B and established under Schedule C between May 1, 1995 and May 31, 1995, appear in the listing below. Future notices will be published on the fourth Tuesday of each month, or as soon as possible thereafter. A consolidated listing of all authorities as of June 30 will also be published.

Schedule A

No Schedule A authorities were established or revoked in May 1995.

Schedule B

No Schedule B authorities were established or revoked in May 1995.

Schedule C

The following Schedule C positions were approved in May 1995.

Department of Agriculture

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. Effective May 16, 1995.

Confidential Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. Effective May 16, 1995.

Confidential Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations. Effective May 17, 1995.

Confidential Assistant to the Executive Assistant to the Secretary. Effective May 19, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. Effective May 26, 1995.

Confidential Assistant to the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration. Effective May 26, 1995.

Department of Commerce

Director of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs to the Under Secretary, Bureau of Export Administration. Effective May 1, 1995.

Confidential Assistant to the Director, Office of Business Liaison. Effective May 10, 1995.

Department of Defense

Special Assistant for Policy Planning and Analysis to the Head, Plans and Policy Group. Effective May 19, 1995.

Department of Education

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Effective May 25, 1995.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development to the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. Effective May 9, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective May 16, 1995.

Special Assistant/Director of Scheduling to the Secretary. Effective May 25, 1995.

Department of the Interior

Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs. Effective May 17, 1995.

Department of Justice

Director, Special Projects to the Director, Office of Public Affairs. Effective May 19, 1995.

Department of Labor

Director of Scheduling and Advance to the Chief of Staff. Effective May 8, 1995.

Staff Assistant to the Chief of Staff. Effective May 8, 1995.

Staff Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary for International Labor Affairs. Effective May 8, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Counselor to the Secretary. Effective May 19, 1995.

Secretary's Representative to the Associate Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Effective May 19, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division. Effective May 26, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Effective May 30, 1995.

Department of Transportation

Special Assistant to the Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Effective May 1, 1995.

Department of the Treasury

Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary (Economic Policy). Effective May 1, 1995.

Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary, International Affairs. Effective May 16, 1995.

Environmental Protection Agency

Confidential Assistant to the Chief of Staff. Effective May 16, 1995.

Federal Trade Commission

Director of Public Affairs (Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist) to the Chairman. Effective May 8, 1995.

Secretary (Office Automation) to the Director, Bureau of Competition. Effective May 12, 1995.

General Services Administration

Deputy Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs to the Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Effective May 10, 1995.

Interstate Commerce Commission

Congressional Affairs Assistant to the Congressional Affairs Advisor. May 26, 1995.

Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission

Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Effective May 17, 1995.

Office of Management and Budget

Confidential Assistant to the Associate Director, Health Personnel. Effective May 16, 1995.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Director, Public Affairs to the Director, Public and Legislative Affairs. Effective May 16, 1995.