

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446]

### Texas Utilities Electric Company; Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption to Facility Operating License No. NPF-87 and NPF-89, issued to Texas Utilities Electric Company, (TU Electric, the licensee), for operation of the Comanche Peak Electric Station Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Units 1 and 2, located in Somervell County, Texas.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would reduce the power level margin assumed for the emergency core cooling system analysis required by title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 50, Appendix K, based on the proposed use of a new feedwater flow measurement system (the Leading Edge Flowmeter system manufactured by Caldon, Inc.) to allow more accurate measurement of thermal power.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated August 13, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 17, 1998.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action will improve accuracy of thermal power measurement and support the licensee's separate request to increase licensed power level (which will be reviewed separately by the Commission).

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other

environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). 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 for the CPSES, dated October 1989.

##### Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 11, 1999, the staff consulted with the Texas State official, Mr. Authur Tate of the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

##### Finding of no Significant Impact

On the basis of 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 August 13, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated December 17, 1998, 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 University of Texas at Arlington Library, 702 College, P.O. Box 19497, Arlington, Texas.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of April 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Robert A. Gramm,**

Chief, Section 1 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### NRC Coordination Meeting With Standards Development Organizations

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The NRC has committed through its Strategic Plan to utilize consensus standards to increase the involvement of licensees and others in the NRC's regulatory development process, consistent with the provisions of Public Law (P.L.) 104-113, the National Technology and Transfer Act of 1995, and Office of Management and Budget (OMS) Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and Conformity Assessment." As part of this commitment, periodic coordination meetings with key standards development organizations (SDOs) and other stakeholders will be held to foster better communication of SDOs' ongoing activities, and NRC needs regarding standards development and their use.

**Date:** May 26, 1999-Registration will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will last approximately four hours.

**Location:** U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, Two White Flint North Auditorium, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738.

**Contact:** Wallace E. Norris, USNRC, Telephone (301) 415-6796; Fax: (301) 415-5074; Internet: wen@nrc.gov.

**Attendance:** This meeting is open to the general public. All individuals planning to attend, including SDO representatives, are requested to preregister with Mr. Norris by telephone or e-mail and provide their name, affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address.

**Program:** The purpose of the meeting is to foster better communication between SDOs and NRC regarding standards development and use. By holding periodic coordination meetings, the SDOs will be able to describe their on-going and planned activities, and the NRC will be able to discuss activities and issues related to specific standards that are being developed or revised to meet its regulatory needs. The meeting will be coordinated by the NRC Standards Executive. The NRC anticipates holding these meetings annually.

A number of issues were identified at the September 1, 1998, external stakeholders meeting with regard to NRC communication with SDOs; see SECY-99-029. These issues will be discussed which include the following:

(1) NRC should be more proactive in communicating with SDOs on technical and planning issues. Regular interaction with SDOs is critical to minimizing differences between the scope of standards and NRC's needs.