

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–254 and 50–265]

Exelon Generation Company, LLC and Midamerican Energy Company; Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from 10 CFR 50.75(h)(2) for Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–29 and DPR–30, issued to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) and MidAmerican Energy Company (MEC) (the licensee), for operation of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Rock Island County, Illinois. Therefore, as required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed*

The proposed is an exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.75(h)(2), as requested by MEC by letter dated November 21, 2003. The proposed action would exempt MEC from compliance with requirements of the new regulation until MEC's amended nuclear decommissioning trusts are approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The Need for the Proposed

The proposed exemption from 10 CFR 50.75(h)(2) is needed because MEC may not obtain approval of the amended nuclear decommissioning trusts from the Illinois Commerce Commission prior to December 24, 2003.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed

The NRC has completed its safety evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed exemption will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety. The details of the staff's safety evaluation will be provided in the exemption that will be issued as part of the letter to the MEC approving the exemption to the regulation.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types of effluents that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the amount of any effluent released offsite. 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 non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not have a potential to affect any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Environmental Impacts of the 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

The action does not involve the use of any different resources than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Quad Cities Power Station, Units 1 and 2 dated September 1972 and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (NUREG–1437 Supplement 16) dated November 2003.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On December 10, 2003, the staff consulted with the Illinois State official, Frank Niziiolek, of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, 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 NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 November 21, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, or 301–415–4737, or send an e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of December 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulation Commission.

Lawrence W. Rossbach,

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 03–31312 Filed 12–18–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–U

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Leakage from Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity**

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of issuance.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued NRC Bulletin 2003–02 to all holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water nuclear power reactors (PWRs) with penetrations in the lower head of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the RPV. The NRC issued this bulletin to (1) advise PWR addressees that current methods of inspecting the RPV lower heads may need to be supplemented with additional measures (e.g., bare-metal visual inspections) in order to detect reactor coolant pressure boundary (RCPB) leakage, (2) request PWR addressees to provide the NRC with information related to inspections that have been or will be performed to verify the integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations, and (3) require PWR addressees to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Section 50.54(f) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50.54(f)).

DATES: The bulletin was issued on August 21, 2003.

ADDRESSEES: Not applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edmund Sullivan at 301–415–2796, e-mail ejs@nrc.gov or Stephen Monarque at 415–1544, e-mail: srm2@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NRC Bulletin 2003–02 may be examined and/or copied for a fee at the NRC's Public