

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260 and 50-296]

Tennessee Valley Authority; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**Introduction**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, or the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA or the licensee) for operation of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant (BFN) Units 1, 2 and 3, located in Limestone County, Alabama.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated February 20, 1998, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and design-change reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 for the BFN units. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would schedule updates to the single, unified FSAR for the three BFN units within 6 months following Unit 2 refueling outages.

The Need for the Proposed Action

10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage provided that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since the BFN Units 1, 2, and 3 share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for each of the three units. Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluent that may be released off site. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission concludes that granting the proposed exemption would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect non-

radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. The Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (no alternative action). Denial of the exemption would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and this alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement dated September 1, 1972 for BFN Units 1, 2 and 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 20, 1998, the NRC staff consulted with the Alabama State official, Mr. Kirk Whatley of the State Office of Radiation Control, 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 this action, see the application for exemption dated February 20, 1998, which is 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 Athens Public Library, 405 E. South Street, Athens, Alabama.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of December 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Frederick J. Hebdon,

Director, Project Directorate II-3, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-33255 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Notice**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATE: Weeks of December 14, 21, 28, 1998 and January 4, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**Week of December 14**

Tuesday, December 15

11:00 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

Week of December 21—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 21, 1998.

Week of December 28—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 28, 1998.

Week of January 4

Wednesday, January 6—Tentative

11:30 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting) (if needed)

The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (Recording)—(301) 415-1292.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Bill Hill (301 415-1661).

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contact the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to wmh@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

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Dated: December 11, 1998.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-33466 Filed 12-14-98; 2:51 pm]

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