

December 12, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: SUPERCEDED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM 2-YEAR
REQUIREMENT FOR CONDUCTING FULL-PARTICIPATION EXERCISE -
LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB3195 AND
MB3196)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact which supercedes our previous assessment issued on November 30, 2001. The assessment is related to your application for exemption dated October 16, 2001. You requested an exemption to provide relief from a requirement of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2.c, to conduct a full-participation exercise of the offsite emergency plan every 2 years. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff determined that an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Item IV.F.2.b, regarding the conduct of a biennial onsite exercise, is also required. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the NRC may, upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50. This assessment addresses both sections of the regulations, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c, and corrects an editorial error regarding the duration of the one-time exemption.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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cc w/encl: See next page
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Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NOS. 50-352 AND 50-353

LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2. b and c, for Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-39 and NPF-85, issued to Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon, the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. 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 Action:

The proposed action would allow a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c, regarding conduct of a full-participation exercise of the onsite and offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would reschedule the exercise originally scheduled for November 1, 2001, and complete the exercise requirements by December 31, 2002.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption dated October 16, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Currently under 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2. b and c, each licensee at each site is required to conduct a full-participation exercise of its onsite and offsite emergency plans every 2 years. Federal agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, observe these exercises and evaluate the performance of the licensee, State, and local authorities having a role under the emergency plan.

The licensee had initially planned to conduct an exercise of its offsite emergency plan on November 1, 2001, which was within the required 2-year interval. However, due to the ongoing national security threat in the United States, and the response, recovery, and other offsite agency activities associated with the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the licensee has decided to postpone the exercise. The licensee does not plan to conduct the full-participation exercise until after the 2-year interval has expired.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves an administrative activity unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not significantly 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 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 have a potential to affect 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 NRC 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 different resource than those previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, dated April 1984.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

On December 6, 2001, the staff contacted the Pennsylvania State official, Dennis Dyckman of the Pennsylvania Department of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments. In addition, the licensee notified the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, who indicated support for rescheduling the exercise.

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.

Further details with respect to the proposed action can be found in the licensee's letter dated October 16, 2001. 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 ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room). 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 by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdrr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of December 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation