

ILLINOIS POWER

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U-601813
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March 19, 1991

10CFR50.91

Docket No. 50-461

Document Control Desk
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Clinton Power Station
Withdrawal of Previous Request
for Waiver of Compliance

Dear Sir:

By letter dated November 28, 1990 (reference U-601761), Illinois Power (IP) requested issuance of a Regional Waiver of Compliance to accommodate an anticipated, short-term, operational evolution involving a transfer of the spent fuel pool cooling (FC) heat exchanger cooling water supply at Clinton Power Station (CPS) from the component cooling water supply system to the shutdown service water supply system.

The Waiver of Compliance was originally requested because the transfer would require the FC pumps to be removed from service and past experience has shown that removing an FC pump from service may cause a reduction in the containment pool water level sufficient to constitute a mode change from a Mode 5 high-water level condition to a Mode 5 low-water level condition. This mode change was not allowed by the CPS Technical Specifications unless additional equipment (emergency core cooling systems and shutdown cooling mode loops of the residual heat removal system) was made operable prior to the transfer operation.* By the Waiver of Compliance, IP had

- * The applicable Technical Specifications at the time did not contain a "3.0.4 exception" that would permit entry into the Mode 5 low-water level condition while operating under the provisions of the associated Technical Specification Action Statement. NRC approval of a proposed change to the Technical Specifications which would incorporate such an exception (submitted in June 1989) was still pending at the time. That amendment request was subsequently approved as Amendment No. 56 dated December 11, 1990.

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requested that the containment pool water level which corresponds to the limit bounding the high-water level condition from the low-water level condition be lowered by six inches during the FC heat exchanger cooling water transfer operation. (This would have allowed the short-term drop in water level to not constitute a mode change.) IP estimated that the potential level decrease would be less than six inches.

On November 29, 1990 Region III of the NRC verbally notified IP that the requested Waiver of Compliance would not be approved. The NRC noted that the situation prompting IP's request did not constitute an emergency situation and that it was possible to perform the evolution while complying with the applicable Technical Specification requirements. IP accepted the NRC's determination, and appropriate actions were taken to perform the required evolution without a Waiver of Compliance.

As noted previously, NRC Region III representatives verbally expressed their denial of IP's requested Waiver of Compliance. As no formal, written disapproval of the request has yet been received from the NRC, IP respectfully requests that its request for a Waiver of Compliance submitted in IP's letter dated November 28, 1990 be withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,



F. A. Spangenberg, III
Manager, Licensing and Safety

DAS/TBE/csm

cc: NRC Clinton Licensing Project Manager
NRC Resident Office
NRC Region III, Regional Administrator
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety