

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONTU ELECTRIC UTILITIES COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-446COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT NO. 2ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an exemption from a portion of the requirements of Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50 to TU Electric (the applicant). The exemption would apply to the facility operating license for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, located in Somervell County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(b)(ii) for operation of Comanche Peak, Unit 2 in response to the applicant's request dated January 20, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Section III.D.2(b)(i) of Appendix J states that "Air locks opened during periods when containment integrity is not required by the plant's Technical Specifications shall be tested at the end of such periods at not less than P_a ." In its request, the applicant requested that the Comanche Peak Unit 2 Technical Specifications be written to instead require an overall air lock leakage test at P_a to be performed only upon completion of maintenance which has been performed on the air lock that could affect the air lock sealing capability. Otherwise, if an air lock is opened during periods when containment integrity is not required and no such maintenance has been performed, a door seal leak rate test (a less time-consuming test) must be

performed. This requested exemption is consistent with the staff's position on the acceptable testing frequency necessary to demonstrate air lock sealing capability intended in Appendix J. The staff's current position is shown in the Standard Technical Specifications for Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactors (NUREG-0452, Revision 4). Until Commission rulemaking changes the current requirement in Appendix J, an exemption to the present regulation must be granted before the applicant can adopt the requested Technical Specification. The proposed exemption is needed because, based on experience at various plants, the staff found that literal compliance with Section III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J is not necessary to assure containment leaktightness. The requested exemption is consistent with the staff's technical position and has been granted to many plants, including Comanche Peak Unit 1. Literal compliance with the regulation would lead to increased costs and occupational exposure.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(b)(ii) will assure air lock sealing capability and containment integrity; therefore, this exemption will not increase the probability of accidents and post-accident radiological releases, nor otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves systems located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

The principal alternative would be for the Commission to deny the requested exemption. This would result in increased costs and occupational exposure and would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, dated September 1981 and Supplement dated October 1989.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

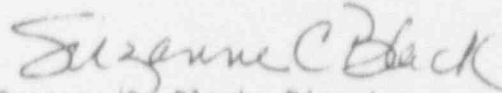
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the applicant's letter dated January 20, 1986. The letter is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the University of Texas at Arlington

Library, Government Publications/Maps, 701 South Cooper, P. O. Box 19497,
Arlington, Texas 76019.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of January 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne C. Black". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Suzanne C. Black, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation