

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-373NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-11, issued to the Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo or the licensee), for operation of the LaSalle County Station, Unit 1, located in LaSalle County, Illinois.

Identification of Proposed Action

The amendment would consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) and would authorize an increase of the storage capacity of the spent fuel pool from 1120 fuel assemblies to 3982 fuel assemblies.

The amendment to the TS is responsive to the licensee's application dated June 5, 1992, as supplemented July 7, July 20 and November 4, 1992. The NRC staff has prepared an Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Action.

Summary of Environmental Assessment

The "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel" (NUREG-0575), Volumes 1-3, concluded that the environmental impact of interim storage of spent fuel was negligible and the cost of the various alternatives reflects the advantage of continued generation of nuclear power with the accompanying spent fuel storage. Because of the differences in design, the FGEIS recommended evaluating spent fuel pool expansions on a case-by-case basis.

For the LaSalle County Station, Unit 1, the expansion of the storage capacity of the spent fuel pool will not create any significant additional radiological effects or nonradiological environmental impacts.

The severity of a fuel handling accident in the spent fuel storage pool would not exceed that due to the design basis accident addressed in the LaSalle County Station Updated Final Safety Analysis Report. The occupational radiation dose for the proposed operation of the expanded spent fuel pool is estimated to be less than two percent of the total annual occupational radiation exposure for this facility.

The estimated additional radiation doses to the general public due to the increased storage capacity are negligible.

The only nonradiological impact affected by the spent fuel pool expansion is the waste heat rejected. The total increase in heat load rejected to the environment will be small in comparison to the amount of total heat currently being released. There is no significant environmental impact attributed to the waste heat from the plant due to this very small increase.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The staff has reviewed the proposed spent fuel pool expansion to the facility relative to the requirements set forth in 10 CFR Part 51. Based on this assessment, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed action and that the issuance of the proposed amendment to the licensee will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, no environmental impact statement needs to be prepared for this action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment to the Technical Specifications dated June 5, 1992, as supplemented July 7, July 20, and November 4, 1992, (2) the FGEIS on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel (NUREG-0575), (3) the Final Environmental Statement for the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2 dated November 1978, and (4) the EA dated February 12, 1993.

These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Public Library of Illinois Valley Community College, Rural Route No. 1, Oglesby, Illinois 61348.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of February 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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