

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANYDAYTON POWER & LIGHT COMPANYCOLUMBUS & SOUTHERN OHIO ELECTRIC COMPANYNOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an Order Revoking Construction Permit No CPPR-88 which authorized construction of the Wm. H. Zimmer Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 located in Moscow, Ohio, approximately 24 miles southeast of Cincinnati, Ohio. The construction permit is held by Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company (CG&E or permittee), on its own behalf, and on behalf of Dayton Power and Light Company and Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Company. The latest construction completion date in the permit, as amended, was December 31, 1982. On November 24, 1982, Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company filed a timely request to extend the latest completion date to December 31, 1984.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to issue an order that would terminate Construction Permit No. CPPR-88 for the Wm. H. Zimmer Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1. This action was requested by the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company because it does not plan to complete the Station as a nuclear fueled unit.

Published in the Federal Register on
April 16, 1985 (50 FR 15018)

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On January 27, 1984, Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company informed the Commission that the owners of Zimmer Unit 1 planned to convert the nuclear fueled facility to a coal-fueled plant. By motion, dated March 20, 1984, CG&E requested the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) to authorize withdrawal of its application for a license to operate the Zimmer plant. CG&E proposed to remove all nuclear fuel from the site. Also, CG&E proposed to cut and cap the main steam lines from the reactor and the main feedwater lines to the reactor, and to remove control rod drive mechanisms from the reactor so that it could not be operated as a utilization facility. These actions have been completed and verified by the NRC staff. As part of termination of the licensing proceeding by letter dated June 1, 1984, CG&E proposed a site restoration program to restore the site to stable environmental conditions. The ASLB authorized withdrawal of the operating license application by its Memorandum and Order, dated August 29, 1984, subject to satisfactory completion of the site restoration program. A Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Operating License and Termination of Proceeding was published in the Federal Register on November 8, 1984 (49 FR 44695). By letter dated October 18, 1984, CG&E advised that site restoration was completed and requested that the construction permit be terminated. CG&E is also a holder of two other NRC licenses, a special nuclear materials license for possession of nuclear reactor fuel and incore neutron flux monitors and a byproduct material license. These two licenses will be terminated by separate actions of the NRC. Since fuel has been shipped offsite and the reactor has been disabled so it cannot be used as a nuclear power plant, termination or revocation of the construction permit is the next appropriate administrative action.

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CG&E's site restoration plan consisted of five components: (1) removal of all trailers and temporary buildings not believed useful for conversion of the site to a coal burning facility; (2) grading; (3) the addition of crushed rock; (4) limited modification to site drainage patterns; and (5) reseeding bare areas. After evaluation of the additional information, a site visit was made by NRC staff on June 11-12, 1984. The primary objective of the site visit was to determine whether the site restoration plan considered all critical site areas. A particular effort was made to inspect areas of the site which potentially could be subject to continued erosion and contribute silt to surface waterbodies, as well as identify areas where standing water could result in saturated soils. The entire site, including the sedimentation pond was examined. The two areas with meteorological towers, which are offsite, were also examined. The NRC staff did not identify any area that required attention that was not covered in the applicants' restoration plan. In addition, NRR staff flew the transmission lines from the Zimmer Station to the Silver Grove substation and from the Silver Grove substation to the Terminal Line substation. These transmission lines are currently energized and will continue to form part of the licensee's transmission grid. Outside of a few areas where trail bikes apparently have killed the herbaceous vegetation and soil erosion was evident, the transmission line right-of-ways are in excellent condition.

The NRC staff conducted an inspection of the Zimmer site on December 11 and 12, 1984 to determine, among other things, whether the CG&E's site restoration plan had been satisfactorily completed. (Letter from C. J. Paperiello, NRC to J. R. Schott, Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, dated

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January 11, 1985). At the exit interview, the NRC inspector stated that all the conditions of CG&E's June 1, 1984 site restoration plan appeared to have been met except that seeding had not been done around the settling basin perimeter and native vegetation on the south bank of the basin appeared to be inadequate to control erosion. The NRC staff has considered the potential environmental impact of erosion of the south bank and concluded that since the soil from this erosion will remain in the basin, continued erosion will not have a detrimental offsite environmental impact. Continued erosion would slightly increase the size of the settling basis but would not cause a significant detrimental onsite environmental impact.

The Staff concludes, based on its review and inspection that the Zimmer Nuclear Power Station has been brought to an environmentally stable condition and that the licensee has satisfied its commitments in connection, with the termination of the licensing proceeding.

Need For Proposed Action: The licensee has terminated construction of the nuclear power plant and has disabled the facility so that it cannot be operated as a utilization facility. This action terminates the Construction Permit reflecting the fact that construction of the utilization facility has ceased and the system is no longer a utilization facility.

Environmental Impact: This action is a simple ministerial act of terminating the outstanding license to reflect the fact that there is no longer a utilization facility under construction at the Zimmer site. This ministerial act has no environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources: This ministerial action for which there are no appropriate alternatives does not involve the use of and therefore will not affect available resources.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed CG&E's request for termination of the construction permit and conducted the environmental review and inspection of the facility. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

For details with respect to this action, see the CG&E's request for termination of Construction Permit No. CPPR-88, dated October 18, 1984, CG&E's site restoration plan transmitted by letter dated June 1, 1984, and NRC staff's inspection report transmitted by letter dated January 11, 1985. These documents regarding the NRC staff's environmental assessment of the proposed action are available for inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555 and at the Clermont County Library, Third and Broadway Streets, Batavia, Ohio 45103. Correspondence concerning this facility will continue to be maintained at these locations for at least one year.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 9th day of April 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

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