

POLICY ISSUE
NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: Commissioner Hanson
SUBJECT: SECY-20-0041: REQUEST BY EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN EMERGENCY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION

Approved Disapproved Abstain Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below Attached None

Entered in STARS

Yes

No

Signature

July 22, 2020

Date

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I thank the staff for its thorough and comprehensive review of the relevant safety issues related to Exelon's request for exemptions from certain emergency preparedness requirements for the Three Mile Island (TMI) Station. Emergency preparedness (EP) is an integral part of NRC's defense-in-depth approach to protect the public from potential consequences associated with radiological accidents.

The staff had considerable resources to draw from in conducting its evaluation, including multiple studies on the safety of spent fuel pools performed after the events of September 11, 2001, and the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi in 2011. I am convinced by the technical bases underlying the staff's ultimate determination, which demonstrate that a significant reduction in the risk of large radiological release is achieved as the site transitions from operation to decommissioning status, in part due to the longer response time available for operators to implement mitigation actions, if needed. I find that the scaling of the EP requirements is justified and commensurate with this risk reduction.

While the proposed exemptions would eliminate the requirement for the licensee to maintain formal offsite radiological EP plans, the licensee would still be required to maintain certain onsite capabilities to communicate and coordinate with offsite response organizations. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has stated that it "will continue to support offsite response organizations as they adjust their plans, sustain capabilities, and manage resources to the changing radiological hazard." Mitigation measures implemented following the events of September 11, 2001, and Fukushima Dai-ichi also provide additional defense-in-depth.

Finally, while each exemption request is thoroughly evaluated on its own merits, I find comparisons to previous exemption requests useful. The NRC has approved 18 EP exemption requests for decommissioning sites, each with a different risk profile. I see this request as fitting within the panoply of previous EP exemptions and their corresponding staff evaluations, and therefore it makes sense that we would reach the same conclusion here.

I reviewed the staff's integrated analysis and for the reasons outlined above, I agree with the staff's conclusion that the proposed exemptions will not present an undue risk to public health and safety. I therefore approve the requested exemptions from certain EP requirements of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Three Mile Island Station.