



[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-244; NRC-2019-0147]

Exelon Generation Company LLC

R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to the license held by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon, the licensee) for the operation of R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). The proposed license amendment would revise the emergency response organization (ERO) positions identified in the emergency plan for Ginna. The NRC is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) associated with the proposed license amendment.

DATES: The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on **[INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2019-0147** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2019-0147**. Address questions about NRC docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System**

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document. In addition, for the convenience of the reader, the ADAMS accession numbers are provided in a table in the "Availability of Documents" section of this document.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: V. Sreenivas, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-2597; e-mail: V.Sreenivas@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is considering issuance of an amendment to Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-18 held by Exelon for Ginna, located in Wayne County, Northwestern part of New York.

In accordance with section 51.21 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC prepared the following EA that analyzes the environmental impacts of the proposed licensing action. Based on the results of this EA, and in accordance

with 10 CFR 51.31(a), the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed licensing action and is issuing a FONSI.

II. Environmental Assessment

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would revise the ERO positions identified in the Ginna emergency plan, including the on-shift, minimum, and full-augmentation ERO staffing requirements. The proposed revisions include eliminating ERO positions; adding ERO positions; changing position descriptions, duties, and duty locations; and relocating certain position descriptions to other parts of the emergency plan or to implementing procedures.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated January 15, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19017A136).

Need for the Proposed Action

Nuclear power plant owners, Federal agencies, and State and local officials work together to create a system for emergency preparedness and response that will serve the public in the unlikely event of an emergency. An effective emergency preparedness program decreases the likelihood of an initiating event at a nuclear power reactor proceeding to a severe accident. Emergency preparedness cannot affect the probability of the initiating event, but a high level of emergency preparedness increases the probability of accident mitigation if the initiating event proceeds beyond the need for initial operator actions.

Each licensee is required to establish an emergency plan to be implemented in the event of an accident, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.47 and appendix E to 10 CFR

part 50. The emergency plan covers preparation for evacuation, sheltering, and other actions to protect individuals near plants in the event of an accident.

The NRC, as well as other Federal and State regulatory agencies, reviews emergency plans to ensure that they provide reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.

Separate from this EA, the NRC is conducting a safety assessment of Exelon's proposed changes to the emergency plan for Ginna. This safety review will be documented in a safety evaluation. The safety evaluation of the proposed changes to the emergency plan will determine whether there continues to be reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency at Ginna, in accordance with the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements in appendix E to 10 CFR part 50.

The proposed action would align the emergency plan for Ginna with the NRC's alternative guidance for EROs provided in a June 12, 2018, letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute (ADAMS Accession No. ML18022A352). This alternative guidance is also included in draft Revision 2 to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants" (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML14163A605 and ML17083A815). This change would provide Exelon with greater flexibility in staffing ERO positions. Additionally, this change reflects changes in NRC regulations and guidance, as well as advances in technologies and best practices, that have occurred since NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Revision 1, was published in 1980. The application indicates that Exelon provided the State of New York a draft of the license amendment request for Ginna, and that the State of New York had no concerns.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action consists of changes related to staffing positions, position descriptions, duties, and duty locations specified in the emergency plan for Ginna. The on-shift, minimum, and full-augmentation ERO staffing requirements listed in the emergency plan would be revised. The revisions include eliminating ERO positions; adding ERO positions; changing position descriptions, duties, and duty locations; relocating certain position descriptions to other parts of the emergency plan or to implementing procedures; and other conforming administrative changes.

Regarding potential nonradiological environmental impacts, the proposed action would have no direct impacts on land use or water resources, including terrestrial and aquatic biota, as it involves no new construction, ground disturbing activities, or modification of plant operational systems. There would be no changes to the quality or quantity of nonradiological effluents and no changes to the plant's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit would be needed. Changes in staffing levels and duty locations could result in minor changes to vehicular traffic and associated air pollutant emissions, but no significant changes in ambient air quality would be expected from the proposed changes. In addition, there would be no noticeable effect on socioeconomic and environmental justice conditions in the region and no potential to affect historical properties. Therefore, there would be no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Regarding potential radiological environmental impacts, if the NRC staff's safety review of the proposed changes to the licensee's emergency plan determines that it continues to meet the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements in appendix E to 10 CFR part 50, then the proposed action would not increase the probability or

consequences of radiological accidents. Additionally, the proposed changes would have no direct radiological environmental impacts. There would be no change to the types or amounts of radioactive effluents that may be released and, therefore, no change in occupational or public radiation exposure. Moreover, no changes would be made to plant buildings or the site property. Therefore, there would be no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered the denial of the proposed action (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the license amendment request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. Accordingly, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no-action alternative would be similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

There are no unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources under the proposed action.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

No additional agencies or persons were consulted regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. However, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b), the licensee provided copies of its application to the State of New York, and the NRC staff will consult with the State prior to issuance of the amendment.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The licensee has requested a license amendment pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(q) to revise the ERO positions identified in the emergency plan for Ginna by eliminating ERO positions; adding ERO positions; changing position descriptions, duties, and duty

locations; and relocating certain position descriptions to other parts of the emergency plan or to implementing procedures. The license amendment would allow Exelon to make changes to the Ginna Emergency Plan related to staffing levels and positions specified in the emergency plan.

The NRC is considering issuing the requested amendment. The proposed action, would not have a significant adverse effect on the probability of an accident occurring, and would not have any significant radiological or nonradiological impacts. It would also not result in any changes to radioactive effluents or emissions to nuclear plant workers and members of the public or any changes to radiological and non-radiological impacts to the environment. The proposed changes would only result in minor changes in staffing levels and a small change in air pollutant emissions associated with vehicular traffic.

Consistent with 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC conducted the EA for the proposed action, and this FONSI incorporates by reference the EA in Section II of this document. Based on the results of the EA, the NRC concludes that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

As required by 10 CFR 51.32(a)(5), previous considerations regarding the environmental impacts of operating Ginna in accordance with its renewed operating license are described in NUREG-1437, Supplement 14, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Regarding R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Final Report," dated January 2004 (ADAMS Accession No. ML040230341).

This FONSI and other related environmental documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Publicly-available records are also accessible online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov.

IV. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through one or more of the following methods, as indicated.

DOCUMENT	ADAMS ACCESSION NO.
Exelon, "License Amendment Request for Approval of Changes to Emergency Plan Staffing Requirements," dated January 15, 2019.	ML19017A136
NRC letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute, "Alternative Guidance for Licensee Emergency Response Organizations," dated June 12, 2018.	ML18022A352
NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, draft Revision 2, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants."	ML14163A605 and ML17083A815
NUREG-1437, Supplement 14, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants." Regarding R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, Final Report, dated January 2004.	ML040230341

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of July, 2019.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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[FR Doc. 2019-15977 Filed: 7/26/2019 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/29/2019]