

March 2, 2000

Mr. John Paul Cowan
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Florida Power Corporation
ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Licensing (SA2A)
Crystal River Energy Complex
15760 W. Power Line Street
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGARDING
EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 70.51(d) (TAC NO.
MA6244)

Dear Mr. Cowan:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." This assessment relates to your application dated July 14, 1999, which requested an exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR 70.51(d) to perform an annual inventory of the fuel in the Crystal River Unit 3 spent fuel pool.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. A. Wiens, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. 50-302

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.51(d) for Facility Operating License No. DPR-72 issued to Florida Power Corporation, et. al. (FPC or the licensee), for operation of Crystal River Unit 3, located in Citrus County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirement to perform a physical inventory of the fuel in the Crystal River Unit 3 spent fuel pool (SFP) every 12 months. Instead of this requirement, the licensee will perform a physical inventory of the fuel in the SFP within 90 days of removing missile shields covering the SFP, if a physical inventory had not been performed within the previous 12 months.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated July 14, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The underlying purpose of the annual physical inventory required by 10 CFR 70.51(d) is to verify that the material control and accounting procedures are sufficient to enable the

licensee to account for the special nuclear material in the licensee's possession. When missile shields are in place on the SFP, movement of fuel in the SFP is not possible. Therefore, removing the missile shields for the sole purpose of conducting an annual inventory is an unnecessary burden on the licensee.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it is administrative only and will have no environmental impact.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the

Final Environmental Statement for Crystal River Unit 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 15, 2000, the staff consulted with William Passetti, Chief, Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control, for the state of Florida, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated July 14, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of March 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

L. A. Wiens, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. John Paul Cowan
Florida Power Corporation

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3

cc:

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