

September 16, 1988

Docket No.: 50-424

Mr. W. G. Hairston III
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: VOGTLE UNIT 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RE: EXEMPTION FROM
10 CFR 20 APPENDIX A FOOTNOTE d-2(c) (TAC 69248)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your request dated August 26, 1988 for an exemption from the requirement of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20. In essence, the exemption would allow use of MSA GMR-I canisters in lieu of supplied air or self-contained breathing apparatuses.

This notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

JS

Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I-II

Enclosure:
As started

cc:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File
Local PDR
NRC PDR
MRood
JHopkins
JPartlow
SVarga
GLainas
EJordan
OGC
GPA/PA
ACRS (10)
PDII-Reading File

8809220098 880916
PDR ADDCK 05000424
C PNU

PDII-3
MRood
9/15/88

JS
PDII-3
JHopkins
9/15/88

DM
PDII-3
DMatthews
9/15/88

DF01
1/1

Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

Mr. J. P. Kane
Manager of Licensing and Engineering
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Resident Inspector
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 572
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Mr. Ruble A. Thomas
Executive Consultant
Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

Deppish Kirkland, III, Counsel
Office of the Consumers' Utility
Council
Suite 225
32 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Mr. Paul D. Rice
Vice President & Project Director
Georgia Power Company
Post Office Box 282
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

James E. Joiner
Troutman, Sanders, Lockerman,
& Ashmore
1400 Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. J. A. Bailey
Project Licensing Manager
Southern Company Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2625
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

Danny Feig
1130 Alta Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Ernest L. Blake, Jr.
Bruce W. Churchill, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037

Carol Stangler
Georgians Against Nuclear Energy
425 Euclid Terrace
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

Mr. G. Bockhold, Jr.
General Manager Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1600
Waynesboro, Georgia 30830

Mr. R. P. McDonald
Executive Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 4545
Atlanta, Georgia 30302

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N.W., Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

= i =

DOCKET NO. 50-424ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirement of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20 to the Georgia Power Company, et al. (the licensee) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1 (Vogtle 1) located on the licensee's site in Burke County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would relax the requirement in Footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR 20 which states, "No allowance is to be made for the use of sorbents against radioactive gases or vapors." The exemption would allow the use of a radioiodine protection factor of 50 for certain respiratory protection canisters used by workers at the licensee's facility, Vogtle 1. The staff's technical evaluation of this request will be published in a report entitled "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Use of Radioiodine Protection Factor for Sorbent Canisters at Vogtle 1."

The evaluation is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated August 26, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request are potential means to reduce occupational exposure to radiation for some tasks at Vogtle 1.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will most likely reduce the work effort and occupational exposure for some tasks at Vogtle 1. The utilization of air purifying respirators in lieu of air-supplied or self-contained apparatuses, where possible, can result in person-rem reductions estimated overall at 30% for tasks requiring radioiodine protection, in a range of from 25% to 50% for several major tasks. The light weight, less cumbersome air purifying respirators (i.e., sorbent canisters) can provide increased comfort and mobility in most cases, and result in increased worker efficiency and decreased time on-the-job.

With regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect the potential for or consequences of radiological accidents and does not affect radiological plant effluents. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to this exemption will have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2" dated March 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or person.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for the exemption dated August 26, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Burke County Library, 412 4th Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of September 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

S/

David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

PD II-3
MRood
9/12/88

PD II-3
JHopkins
9/12/88

OGC
CPW
9/13/88

PD II-3
BMatthews
9/15/88