

February 20, 1990

Docket No. 50-424

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Mr. W. G. Hairston, III
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Operations
Georgia Power Company
P.O. Box 1295
Birmingham, Alabama 35201

Dear Mr. Hairston:

SUBJECT: VOGTLE UNIT 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RE: AMENDMENT TO EXEMPTION
FROM 10 CFR PART 20, APPENDIX A, FOOTNOTE d-2(c) (TAC 75168)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your request dated September 28, 1989, for an amendment to an exemption from the requirement of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20 granted on October 27, 1988. In essence, the exemption amendment would allow MSA GMR-1 canisters to be stored in a Class C storage environment.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Timothy A. Reed, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-424ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to an exemption from the requirement of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20 issued by the Commission on October 27, 1988, 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 ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would relax the requirement in Attachment 1 of the exemption issued October 27, 1988, which states, "Canisters are to be stored in a Class A or better environment, as defined in ANSI N45.2.2." The amendment would allow the authorized MSA GMR-1 canisters to be stored in a Class C storage environment. The Commission's technical evaluation of this request will be published in a report entitled "Safety Evaluation Related to Class C Storage Environment for Sorbent Canisters at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1."

The evaluation is responsive to the licensee's application for an amendment to the exemption dated September 28, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption amendment is needed because the Class A storage requirement is unnecessarily restrictive and results in lost work time to retrieve the canisters from the Class A storage area.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption amendment will most likely reduce the work effort for some tasks at Vogtle 1. Class C storage will allow the canisters to be stored near entry points to radiological controlled work areas, where they can easily be obtained for use. The Class A storage area requires approximately a 45 minute walk to obtain a canister for use.

With regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed exemption amendment 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 amendment.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment 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 amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because the Commission's staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption amendment, any alternative to this amendment will have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

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

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in 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 Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption amendment. The staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

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 amendment dated September 28, 1989, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the Burke County Public Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of February 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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