

Mr. C. K. McCoy  
 Vice President - Nuclear  
 Vogtle Project  
 Georgia Power Company  
 P. O. Box 1295  
 Birmingham, AL 35201

August 21, 1995

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J - VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M92321)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your letter dated May 12, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated July 6, 1995, requesting a one-time exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, relating to the containment Integrated Leak Rate Test (ILRT) frequency. The proposed exemption would allow a one-time extension of the Type A ILRT interval by approximately 18 months from the March 1996 refueling outage to the September 1997 refueling outage.

This notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,  
 Original signed by:

Louis L. Wheeler, Senior Project Manager  
 Project Directorate II-2  
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-424

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 21, 1995

Mr. C. K. McCoy  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Vogtle Project  
Georgia Power Company  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR AN  
EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J - VOGTLE ELECTRIC  
GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M92321)

Dear Mr. McCoy:

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This notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis L. Wheeler".

Louis L. Wheeler, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-424

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. C. K. McCoy  
Georgia Power Company

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant

cc:

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Atlanta, Georgia 30365

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-424VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. NPF-68, issued to Georgia Power Company, et al. (the licensee) for operation of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Unit 1, located at the licensee's site in Burke County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to address potential environmental issues related to the licensee's application dated May 12, 1995, as supplemented by letter dated July 6, 1995. The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.1.(a), to the extent that a one-time extension of approximately 18 months would permit rescheduling the third containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT) from the March 1996 refueling outage to the September 1997 refueling outage. The requirement of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section IV.A, to perform a Type A test following any major modification to the primary containment boundary will be maintained. No such modifications have been made to the containment since the last Type A test in 1993, nor are any planned during the March 1996 refueling outage.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to permit the licensee to defer the Type A ILRT from the spring 1996 refueling outage to the September 1997 refueling outage, thereby saving the cost of performing the test and eliminating the test from the 1996 outage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed one-time exemption would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents. In accordance with Section III.D.1.(b) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, the licensee will continue to be required to conduct the Type B and C local leak rate tests, which historically have been shown to be the principal means of detecting containment leakage paths with the Type A tests confirming the Type B and C test results. In addition, even though the licensee would be exempt from the requirement to perform the Type A integrated leak rate test, they have committed to performing a general containment inspection as specified in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section V.A if the requested exemption is granted. The NRC staff considers that these inspections, though limited in scope, provide an important added level of confidence in the continued integrity of the containment boundary. The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to this action would be to deny the request for exemption. Such action would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action did 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.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 5, 1995, the staff consulted with the Georgia State official, Mr. James Hardeman of the Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letters dated May 12, 1995, and July 6, 1995, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Burke County Library, 412 Fourth Street, Waynesboro, Georgia.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of August 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation