

September 4, 1986

Docket No. 50-348

Mr. R. P. McDonald  
Senior Vice President  
Alabama Power Company  
Post Office Box 2641  
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

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Dear Mr. McDonald:

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated May 31, 1985, supplemented October 18, 1985, and July 16, 1986, for the exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit No. 1.

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

Sincerely,

Lester S. Rubenstein, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #2  
Division of PWR Licensing-A  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

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Docket No. 50-348

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Mr. R. P. McDonald  
Senior Vice President  
Alabama Power Company  
Post Office Box 2641  
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Lester S. Rubenstein, Director  
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cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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CParrish  
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*LR*

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*shields*  
12/ /85

Mr. R. P. McDonald  
Alabama Power Company

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

cc:

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Columbia, Alabama 36319

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONALABAMA POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-348NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to Alabama Power Company, (the licensee), for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Unit No. 1 located near the City of Dothan, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would permit alternatives to the technical requirements of Appendix R concerning certain specifically identified fire areas in Farley Unit No. 1.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated May 31, 1985, supplemented October 18, 1985, and July 16, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing fire protection at the plant for these items are the most practical means for meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption and modifications to be made will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by Appendix R for the affected areas of the plant such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological

plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

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

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 the exemption would be to require rigid compliance with Section III.G of Appendix R requirements. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unjustified costs for the licensee.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit No. 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

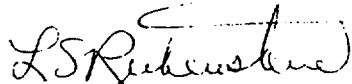
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

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 application for exemption dated May 31, 1985, supplemented October 18, 1985, and July 16, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Local Public Document Room, located at the George S. Houston Memorial Library, 212 W. Burdeshaw Street, Dothan, Alabama.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 4th day of September, 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Lester S. Rubenstein, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #2  
Division of PWR Licensing-A