

February 11, 1998

Mr. T. F. Plunkett
President - Nuclear Division
Florida Power and Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX R, FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES - TURKEY POINT UNITS 3 AND 4 (TAC NOS. M97422 AND M97423)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to portions of your letter dated December 12, 1996, as supplemented on July 31 and October 31, 1997, regarding a proposed exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Richard P. Croteau, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251
Enclosure: Environmental Assessment
cc w/enclosure: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYTURKEY POINT UNIT 3 AND UNIT 4DOCKET NOS. 50-250 AND 50-251ENVIRONMENTAL 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 Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-31 and DPR-41 for operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated December 12, 1996, for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979," for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. Specifically, the licensee requests an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R, Subsection III.G.2.a, for raceway fire barriers in outdoor fire zones, excluding the Open Turbine Building.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The Thermo-Lag fire barriers installed at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 were found to have a rating of 25-minutes, which does not meet the requirements specified in Subsection III.G.2.a. The proposed exemptions are needed because compliance

with the regulation would result in significant additional costs.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20.

The proposed action will not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of accidents or result in a change in occupational or offsite dose. Therefore, there are no radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

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

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. 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 did not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, dated July 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 11, 1998 the NRC staff consulted with the Florida State official, Mr. William Passeti of the State Office of Radiation Control,

regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

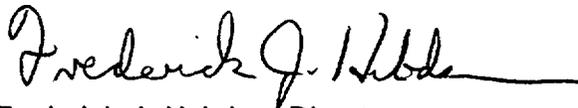
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 12, 1996, as supplemented on July 31 and October 31, 1997, 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 Florida International University, University Park, Miami, Florida 33199.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of February, 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. T. F. Plunkett
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