

March 18, 1999

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. MA3972 AND MA3974)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your request dated November 2, 1998, as supplemented on February 11, 1999 regarding a proposed exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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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. MA3972 AND MA3974)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your request dated November 2, 1998, as supplemented on February 11, 1999 regarding a proposed exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kahtan N. Jabbour".

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYTURKEY POINT UNITS 3 AND 4DOCKET NOS. 50-250 AND 50-251ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) 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, located in Dade County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant an 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 requested an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R, Subsection III.G.2.a, for raceway fire barriers in the control building roof which includes fire zone 106R.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated November 2, 1998, as supplemented by a submittal dated February 11, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The Thermo-Lag fire barriers installed at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 have a rating that does not meet the requirements specified in Subsection III.G.2.a. The proposed exemption is 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 underlying purpose of the regulation, to provide reasonable assurance that at least one means of achieving and maintaining safe shutdown conditions will remain available during and after any postulated fire in the plant, will be met. This is based on the fact that the control building roof which includes fire zone 106R is considered to have a negligible contribution to the in situ combustible load and the gravel on the roof would resist fire from, and to, the roof. In addition the control building roof provides high resistance to severe fire and is equivalent to the standards of the Underwriter's Laboratory requirements for resistance to severe fire.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

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

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). 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 does 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 25, 1999, the NRC staff consulted with the Florida State official, Mr. William Passetti of the Bureau 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 request dated November 2, 1998, as supplemented by a submittal dated February 11, 1999, 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.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of March 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Cecil O. Thomas, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. T. F. Plunkett
Florida Power and Light Company

TURKEY POINT PLANT

cc:

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