

October 17, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-324

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Mr. Lynn W. Eury
Executive Vice President
Power Supply
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Dear Mr. Eury:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGARDING A ONE-TIME EXEMPTION FROM APPENDIX J
TO 10 CFR PART 50 TO ALLOW REVERSE-DIRECTION LOCAL LEAK RATE TESTING
OF TWO CONTAINMENT ISOLATION VALVES - BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT,
UNIT 2 (TAC NO.M81183)

Enclosed is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant
Impact for your information. This assessment relates to your request dated July
29, 1991, requesting a one-time exemption from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to
allow Type C (local leak rate) testing of two containment isolation valves in
the reverse-direction.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ngoc B. Le, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
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Mr. L. W. Eury
Carolina Power & Light Company

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-324ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee) for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant (BSEP), Unit 2, located in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would grant a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III. C.1, to allow Type C (local leak rate) testing of two containment isolation valves in the reverse-direction.

The licensee's request for exemption and bases thereof are contained in a letter dated July 29, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time exemption from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to allow Type C (local leak rate) testing of two containment isolation valves in the reverse-direction. The purpose of the Type C testing is to measure and to ensure that the leakage through the primary reactor containment does not exceed the maximum allowable leakage rate.

For BSEP, Unit 2, the staff has stated in its Safety Evaluation dated January 28, 1991, that 16 of 51 containment isolation valves reviewed did not satisfy the equivalent-or-more-conservative requirement that allows reverse-direction testing. The licensee is taking steps to install test connections to enable future Type C tests for these 16 valves to be conducted by pressurization in the forward-direction as required by Appendix J. However, only 14 of those 16 valves were completed. Consequently, the testing of the remaining two valves in the forward-direction can not be conducted until after the next required test for the valves. Therefore, the licensee has requested that these two valves be exempted from the forward testing requirement for the next Unit 2 Type C test (Refueling Outage 9, September through November 1991); the licensee will test them in the forward-direction for the following Type C test (Refueling Outage 10, scheduled to begin March 1993). The exemption is needed to enable the licensee to perform the Unit 2 refueling outage and restart as scheduled.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time exemption from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to allow Type C (local leak rate) testing of two containment isolation valves in the reverse-direction.

The two subject valves are B32-V22, Recirculation Pump A Seal Injection Valve, and B32-V30, Recirculation Pump B Seal Injection Valve. The licensee has initiated modifications to install test connections that will allow forward-direction testing of these valves. However, due to the insufficient time available to perform the engineering necessary to complete the installation of these modifications prior to the Refueling Outage 9 (scheduled to begin in September 1991), installation of these test connections will be completed during

the Refueling Outage 10, scheduled to begin in March 1993. Since Appendix J requires Type C testing at every refueling outage (although in no case at intervals greater than two years), the requested exemption will allow only one additional reverse-direction test of these valves during the Refueling Outage 9.

The proposed exemption will not negatively impact containment integrity and will not significantly change the release from facility accidents. Therefore, post-accident radiological releases will not be significantly greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the proposed exemption would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Because it has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impact of the BSEP, Unit 2, operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the BSEP, Unit 2, which was issued in January 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The NRC staff 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 from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, dated July 29, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the William Madison Randall Library, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 601 S. College Road, Willmington, North Carolina 28403-3297.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 17th day of October 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Elinor G. Adensam, Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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