

January 5, 1994

Docket Nos. 50-325
and 50-324

Mr. R. A. Anderson
Vice President
Brunswick Nuclear Project
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Dear Mr. Anderson:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE REQUEST FOR ONE-TIME
EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50,
BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M88044 AND
M88045)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact. The assessment relates to your request
dated October 19, 1993, for a one-time exemption to the requirements of
Section III.A.5.(b)(2) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, which requires Type A
containment integrated leak rate testing on an accelerated frequency if two
consecutive Type A tests fail to meet the acceptance criterion. You have
requested a one-time exemption to return Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units
1 and 2 to a normal test frequency.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Patrick D. Milano, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PDR ADOCK 05000324
C PDR

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc:
See next page

OFFICE	LA: PD21:DRPE	PM: PD21:DRPE	AD: PD21:DRPE	OGC
NAME	PAnderson	PMilano	SBajwa	Note: small corrections
DATE	12/9/93	12/9/93	1/14/93	12/30/93

Document Name: G:\BRUNSWIC\BR88044.EA

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Milano", is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick D. Milano, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc:
See next page

Mr. R. A. Anderson
Carolina Power & Light Company

Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. Mark S. Calvert
Associate General Counsel
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Karen E. Long
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
Post Office Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Kelly Holden, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Post Office Box 249
Southport, North Carolina 28422

Mr. Robert P. Gruber
Executive Director
Public Staff - NCUC
Post Office Box 29520
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0520

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Star Route 1, Post Office Box 208
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. H. W. Habermeyer, Jr.
Vice President
Nuclear Services Department
Carolina Power & Light Company
Post Office Box 1551 - Mail OHS7
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta St., N.W., Ste. 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. Norman R. Holden
City of Southport
201 East Moore Street
Southport, N.C. 28461

Mr. Dayne H. Brown, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N.C. Department of Environmental,
Commerce and Natural Resources
Post Office Box 27687
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7687

Mr. J. M. Brown
Plant Manager - Unit 1
Carolina Power & Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Public Service Commission
State of South Carolina
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. C. C. Warren
Plant Manager - Unit 2
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 10429
Southport, North Carolina 28461

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NRC & Local PDRs

PD2-1 Reading File

S. Varga

G. Lainas

S. Bajwa

P. Milano

P. Anderson

OGC

E. Jordan

ACRS (10)

OPA

E. Merschoff, Region II

D. Verrelli, Region II

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-325 AND 50-324
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an one-time exemption from the requirements of Section III.A.5(b)(2) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 issued to the Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee), for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant (BSEP), Unit 1 and 2, located in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant a one-time partial exemption from the schedular requirement in Section III.A.5(b)(2) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, which requires a Type A test to be performed at each plant shutdown for refueling until two consecutive Type A tests meet the acceptance criteria in Section III.A.5(b). This exemption would allow the licensee to return the BSEP to a normal testing frequency. Presently, both BSEP units are in the accelerated testing condition of Section III.A.5(b)(2) due to the as-found testing failures which were within L_a leakage limits but exceeded the $0.75 L_a$ limit. For Type A (containment integrate leak rate) tests conducted at peak pressure, the measured leakage rate, L_{am} , must be less than 75 percent of the maximum allowable leakage rate, L_a , measured at the calculated peak

containment internal pressure, P_a . These terms are defined in Section II of Appendix J. In accordance with Section III.A.6(b) of Appendix J, if subsequently two consecutive Type A tests for a unit should fail to meet the acceptance criterion, the accelerated test frequency will be resumed. The next Unit 1 Type A test will be conducted during the Reload 9 outage, scheduled for March 1995, and the next Unit 2 Type A test will be conducted during the Reload 12 outage, scheduled for March 1997.

The proposed action is in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12, Specific Exemptions, and is based upon the information provided to the Commission in the licensee's request for exemption dated October 19, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed to avoid outage extensions and the increased outage costs while the tests for the accelerated Type A containment leakage rate are being conducted. Granting of the exemption would return both BSEP units to a normal test frequency. The exemption would also minimize subjecting the drywell to additional structural stresses during the Type A tests.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission's staff has determined that (a) the granting of the proposed exemption would not significantly increase the probability or amount of expected containment leakage and (b) the integrity of the containment would be maintained. Consequently, the probability of accidents would not be increased, nor would the post-accident radiological releases be greater than previously determined. The proposed exemption would not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission's staff concludes

that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves a change to surveillance testing schedular requirements. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives would have either no or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to this facility but could result in an increased frequency for Type A tests. This would result in the expenditure of resources without any compensating benefit.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2, dated January 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's 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 request for one-time partial exemption dated October 19, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room located at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, William Madison Randall Library, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-3297.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5 day of January, 1994.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Singh Bajwa', is written over a horizontal line.

S. Singh Bajwa, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation