

May 8, 1987

Docket No. 50-261

Mr. E. E. Utley, Senior Executive
Vice President
Power Supply and Engineering &
Construction
Carolina Power and Light Company
Post Office Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Dear Mr. Utley:

Subject: Environmental Assessment on Exemption Request from
Certain Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J,
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to
your April 17, 1987, request for an exemption from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J,
paragraph II.A.3.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

for Jon B. Hopkins, Project Manager
Kenneth T. Eccleston, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

for LA:PD21:DRPR
PAAnderson
05/6/87

KTE
for PE:PD21:DRPR
BMozaferi/vag
05/6/87

KTE
PM:PD21:DRPR
KEccleston
05/6/87

OGC *R.C. Bachmann*
D:PD21:DRPR
EAdensam
05/8/87

8705130281 870508
PDR ADDCK 05000261
P PDR

Mr. E. E. Utley
Carolina Power & Light Company

H. B. Robinson 2

cc:

Thomas A. Baxter, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Mr. Dayne H. Brown, Chief
Radiation Protection Branch
Division of Facility Services
Department of Human Resources
701 Barbour Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-2008

Mr. McCuen Morrell, Chairman
Darlington County Board of Supervisors
County Courthouse
Darlington, South Carolina 29535

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

Mr. H. A. Cole
Special Deputy Attorney General
State of North Carolina
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. D. E. Hollar
Associate General Counsel
Carolina Power and Light Company
P.O. Box 1551
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
Route 5, Box 413
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Suite 2900
101 Marietta Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. R. Morgan
General Manager
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant
Post Office Box 790
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

Mr. Avery Upchurch, Chairman
Triangle J Council of Governments
100 Park Drive
Post Office Box 12276
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-261ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Carolina Power & Light Company, (the licensee), for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2, located in Darlington County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would grant relief from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, paragraph II.A.3, which requires that all Type A (Containment Integrated Leak Rate) tests be performed in accordance with ANSI N45.4-1972, "Leakage Rate Testing of Containment Structures for Nuclear Reactors." ANSI N45.4 requires that leakage calculations be performed using the Total Time method. The licensee would rely, instead, on the Mass-Plot method described in ANSI/ANS 56.8-1981, "Containment System Leakage Testing."

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefor are contained in a letter dated April 17, 1987,

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is from the Standard referenced in 10 CFR 50,

Appendix J, which requires the containment leakage calculations be performed using either Point-to-Point or the Total Time method. The licensee has performed the calculations using the Mass-Plot method, a newer method which has been accepted by the NRC staff. Additionally, the revised Standard (ANSI/ANS 56.8-1981, "Containment Leakage Testing") specifies the use of the Mass-Plot method exclusively, and the new Standard is proposed to be incorporated into a planned revision of Appendix J.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would permit the substitution of the Mass-Plot method for the Total Time method in performing leakage calculations. The Mass-Plot method has been accepted by the NRC staff as a more accurate technique that will increase confidence in the integrity of the containment. This exemption will not affect containment integrity and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological 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 alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of the Robinson

Unit 2 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility or unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of the H. B. Robinson Steam-Electric Plant Unit 2", dated April 1975.

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 on the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further information with respect to this action, see the application for exemption previously listed, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Hartsville Memorial Library, Home and Fifth Avenues, Hartsville, South Carolina 29535.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Jon B. Hopkins
Jon B. Hopkins, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II

*See Previously Concurred:

LA:PD21:DRPR PE:PD21:DRPR PM:PD21:DRPR
*PAnderson *BMozafari/vag *KEccleston
05/06/87 05/06/87 05/06/87

OGC *[Signature]* Acting Dir:PD21:DRPR
*RBachmann JHopkins
05/06/87 05/8/87

Unit 2 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility or unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of the H. B. Robinson Steam-Electric Plant Unit 2", dated April 1975.

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 on the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further information with respect to this action, see the application for exemption previously listed, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Hartsville Memorial Library, Home and Fifth Avenues, Hartsville, South Carolina 29535.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

LA:PD21:DRPR
PAnderson
05/6/87

KTE
for PE:PD21:DRPR
BMozaferi/vag
05/6/87

KTE
PM:PD21:DRPR
KEccleston
05/6/87

see
correcting
P. 2
JB
D:PD21:DRPR
EAdensam
05/6/87 05/ /87

5/6