

May 31, 1989

Docket No.: 50-261

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

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Dear Mr. Eury:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR
PART 50 - H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
(TAC NO. 53336)

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your request dated January 30, 1983, as supplemented September 14, 1987, for an exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.1.(a) and A.5.(b). The exemption would allow for a method to successfully complete the containment integrated leakage rate test when it is determined that excessive local leakage exists.

This notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Ronnie H. Lo , Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl:
See next page

c/p cut

[R. EURY 4/28]

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Mr. L. W. Eury
Carolina Power & Light Company

H. B. Robinson Steam Electric
Plant, Unit No. 2

cc:

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Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANYH. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2DOCKET NO. 50-261ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain 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 Part 50, Appendix J, Section III. A.1.(a) and A.5.(b). Specifically, the exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J., Section III.A.1.(a), would allow for a method to successfully complete the containment integrated leakage rate test (CILRT) when it is determined that excessive local leakage exists. Under the exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.5.(b), the acceptance criteria of "as found" leakage rate(s) for a component(s) isolated during a CILRT would be the maximum allowable leakage rate, L_a , or the corresponding L_t (which is the maximum allowable leakage rate at the containment reduced test pressure during Type A tests), while the acceptance criteria for "as left" leakage following the CILRT would remain $0.75 L_a$ (or $0.75 L_t$).

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefor are contained in letters dated June 30, 1983, as supplemented September 14, 1987.

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The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is from requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.1.(a) and Section III.A.5.(b). The proposed exemption would allow the CILRT to continue even though local leakage of isolated components is observed. The proposed exemption does not relax the requirement that the "as found" local leakage be added to the Type A test results to determine whether the CILRT has been successful. The NRC staff has reviewed the request and determined that application of the regulation in the particular circumstances is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule, which is to determine both the "as found" containment leakage condition and also the final ("as left") condition. To deny the exemption request would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Environmental Impacts of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would permit the completion of leakage tests under certain conditions and the use of certain "as found" acceptance criteria for leakage prior to the completion of tests. The exemption will not affect containment integrity and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has 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 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 H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

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 Nuclear Steam Electric Plant Unit 2," dated April 19, 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 forgoing environmental assessment, the staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a 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, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
and at the Hartsville Memorial Library, Hartsville, South Carolina 29536.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 31th day of May, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Ronnie Lo/for

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

for
PDII-1
PAnderson
5/8/89

PDII-1
RLo:sw
5/9/89

PDII-1
EAdensam
5/31/89

← No legal objection - objection -
to support of E.A. 2. no-
OGC E.H. Lewis
5/22/89