

January 29, 1991

Docket No. 50-261

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 RELATED TO EXEMPTION FROM
10 CFR 55.59(c)(4)(i) - H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC
PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. 79287)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment
and Finding of No Significant Impact related to the exemption requested in
your letter dated December 28, 1990. This Environmental Assessment has
been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Elinor G. Adensam for:

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/enclosure:
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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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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-261ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 to Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee), for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 (HBR-2), located in Darlington County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The exemption would grant relief from paragraph 55.59(c)(4)(i) for one calendar quarter on a one-time only basis.

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefor are contained in a letter dated December 28, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is from paragraph 55.59(c)(4)(i) which requires "Comprehensive requalification written examinations and annual operating tests" be conducted for licensed operators and senior operators. The exemption request is for a one-time extension of one calendar quarter to the requalification examination schedule from January to April 1991.

The requested extension is needed to relieve the burden on the work schedules of the operators who have to attend to returning the facility to power operations following the 13th refueling outage. The licensee is planning for restart during the second half of January 1991.

The requested exemption is on a one-time basis so the future schedule of the requalification program will not be affected and there will be no permanent adjustment to the 24-month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination schedule.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would extend, on a one-time basis, the HBR-2 operator examination schedule for a calendar quarter. This exemption will not increase 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 increase in occupational exposure. It 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.

Alternate 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. Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributable to this facility 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 related to operation of the HBR-2 facility, dated April 1975.

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, the staff concludes 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 exemption dated December 28, 1990, 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, Home and Fifth Avenues, Hartsville, South Carolina 29535.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of January 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Elinor G. Adensam

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