

October 8, 1992

Docket No. 50-261

Mr. R. A. Watson  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Generation  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Dear Mr. Watson:

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX R, FOR  
H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M82759)

By letter dated January 22, 1992, Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) requested an exemption from a Section III, Appendix R, 10 CFR Part 50 requirement to provide 8-hour battery powered emergency lighting units in certain areas.

The Commission has granted the requested Exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12. The Exemption has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. A copy of the Exemption is enclosed for your information.

We also agree with the CP&L's interpretation that the exemption granted on June 30, 1988, allows for operation of Service Water Valve V6-12D at the intake structure using portable lights. It was specifically addressed in Section III on Page 2 of the Exemption sent by NRC letter dated June 30, 1988, and inadvertently omitted from Section IV on page 5. This omission is rectified in the enclosed Exemption.

A Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the Federal Register on October 8, 1992 (57 FR 46410).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Brenda L. Mozafari, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure: Exemption  
cc w/enclosure: See next page

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October 8, 1992

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Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of these exemptions will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (57 FR 46410).

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

Steven A. Varga, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. R. A. Watson  
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H. B. Robinson Steam Electric  
Plant, Unit No. 2

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
(H. B. Robinson Steam Electric  
Plant, Unit No. 2)

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Docket No. 50-261

EXEMPTION

I.

The Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee) is the holder of Operating License DPR-23 that authorizes operation of the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2. The license provides, among other things, that the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2, is subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The station is a single-unit pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site located in Darlington County, South Carolina.

II.

By letter dated January 22, 1992, the licensee requested exemption from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50; specifically, the licensee listed 10 areas for which they sought an exemption from the requirement to provide 8-hour emergency lighting in certain areas.

III.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) when special circumstances are present. According to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances are present when "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances

would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule...."

Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 states that "Emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply shall be provided in all areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto."

The reason for requiring 8-hour battery-powered emergency lighting is to ensure that at least minimal lighting is available for the performance of manual actions necessary for safe shutdown after a fire. Usually manual actions are required for valve alignment, repairs, and pump control operations. The 10 areas for which an exemption from the 8-hour battery-powered emergency lighting requirement is sought are areas in which cold shutdown operation and repair activities take place. The licensee proposes to maintain dedicated battery-powered emergency lights at selected locations to permit easy availability to personnel enroute to these 10 areas following a fire.

In their letter of June 29, 1984, the licensee referenced the safe shutdown analysis for H. B. Robinson, Unit 2 (as described in their supplemental submittal dated February 6, 1984) which postulated that cold shutdown operation and repair activities would commence approximately 5 to 8 hours after the fire. In letters of July 30, 1987, and June 30, 1988, the staff granted an exemption from the requirement of Section III.J of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R to provide 8-hour battery-powered lights for the containment and RHR pit areas where manual, cold shutdown operations are required and/or where possible repairs may be needed. The same conditions of possible manual, cold shutdown operations and/or repairs exist for these other 10 areas listed in the January 22, 1992, submittal. The technical justification for the

original exemption is also valid for these 10 areas. Specifically:

- Battery-powered emergency lighting is required to last 8-hours.
- The cold shutdown manual actions and/or repairs will commence 5 to 8 hours after the fire. Therefore, effectiveness of the 8-hour battery-powered emergency lighting would be marginal.
- Dedicated battery-powered emergency lights will be maintained at selected locations to permit easy availability to personnel enroute to these 10 areas following a fire.

Based on this evaluation, the staff has concluded that the 10 areas listed in the licensee's request for exemption dated January 22, 1992, should, in fact, be exempted from the requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50.

In the January 22, 1992, letter, the licensee also requested clarification concerning the earlier Exemption granted by the NRC on June 30, 1988. The evaluation addressed the issue of using the portable battery-powered emergency lights both for access to and operation of Service Water Valve V6-12D; however, only access to the valve was included in the actual Exemption. The licensee stated that they interpreted this to mean that these portable lights were acceptable also for operation of valve V6-12D. We agree with this interpretation.

#### IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Exemption as described in Section III is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property, and is otherwise in the public interest; it has also determined that special circumstances exist pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii). Therefore, the Commission grants the following exemption:

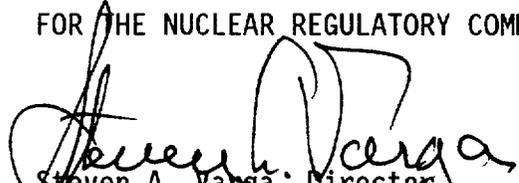
Carolina Power & Light Company is exempt from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.J, in that battery-powered emergency lighting need not be provided for the following areas:

<u>Fire Zone/ Area</u>	<u>Description of Fire Zone/Area</u>
7/A	Auxiliary Building Hallway
11/A	Pipe Alley
12/A	RHR Heat Exchanger Room
19/A	Unit 2 Cable Spreading Room
20/A	E1/E2 Emergency Switchgear Room
9/D	North Cable Vault
10/E	South Cable Vault
25/G	Turbine Building, Including 4160V Switchgear Room
/G	Outside RHR Pit
/G	Central Warehouse and Outside Yard Area

The Commission also clarifies that the Exemption granted on June 30, 1988, allows for the operation of service water valve V6-12D at the intake structure using portable lights. It was specifically addressed in Section III on Page 2 of the Exemption sent by NRC letter dated June 30, 1988, and inadvertently omitted from Section IV on page 5.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of these exemptions will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (57 FR 46410).

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Steven A. Varga, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation