

December 28, 1993

Docket No. 50-261

Mr. C. R. Dietz, Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
Post Office Box 790
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550-0790

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50,
APPENDIX E, SECTION F.2 - H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT,
UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M88238)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your letter dated November 21, 1993, as supplemented November 22, 1993, requesting an exemption from the requirement in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV F.2, which states that each licensee at each site shall annually exercise its emergency plan. Specifically, you requested exemption from the requirement for H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2, based upon the lack of personnel to conduct a meaningful exercise due to resource constraints caused by an unscheduled outage to investigate fuel problems. The exemption would allow the licensee to delay the onsite portion of the biennial exercise from November 30, 1993, until the week of March 21, 1994.

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

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

*See Previous Concurrence

OFC	LA:PD21:DRPE	PM:PD31:DRPE	D:PD21:DRPE	OGC*
NAME	PAnderson	BMOzafari	MSajwa	R. Bachmann
DATE	12/27/93	12/27/93	12/29/93	12/16/93

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Mozafari".

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

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

Mr. C. R. Dietz
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H. B. Robinson Steam Electric
Plant, Unit No. 2

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow temporary relief from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2., for the licensee at HBR to annually exercise its emergency plan. By letter dated November 21, 1993, as supplemented November 22, 1993, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, to conduct an annual exercise of the HBR Radiological Emergency Plan in 1993. The licensee had planned to conduct a full-participation exercise involving the State of South Carolina and local response organizations on November 30, 1993. The licensee requested that an exemption be granted for the conduct of the onsite portion of the exercise because the licensee would not have sufficient staff to conduct a meaningful exercise of the HBR Emergency Plan due to resource constraints caused by an unscheduled outage to investigate and address core design issues. This proposed delay

will prevent HBR from meeting the requirement to conduct an annual exercise of the HBR Emergency Plan. However, the licensee proposed that the offsite portion of the exercise involving the State of South Carolina and local governmental authorities be conducted as scheduled on November 30, 1993. The licensee requested a delay of the onsite portion of the 1993 annual exercise from November 30, 1993, to the week of March 21, 1994. The request to move the exercise date was originated by the licensee because they would be unable to participate on November 30, 1993, as a result of their involvement at that time in addressing safety issues identified during startup after refueling outage 15. The reactor was ascending to full power operation after a refueling outage when low power physics testing revealed an improper configuration emanating from the design of the new fuel. The new fuel consisted of 44 fuel assemblies, 6 of which were found to be configured improperly against design specifications. As a result, the NRC dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team to the site and the licensee formed three investigative teams. The licensee stated that all of these efforts to develop corrective actions for core reconfiguration and to investigate and resolve any industry implications of fuel configuration problems diverted focus and resources. The offsite portion of the exercise involving the State of South Carolina and local governmental authorities would be conducted as scheduled on November 30, 1993. This proposed delay will prevent the licensee from meeting the requirement to annually exercise the HBR Radiological Emergency Plan, as specified in Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50, and, therefore, the licensee requested a schedular exemption.

The previous emergency preparedness exercise at HBR was successfully conducted on November 17, 1992, and included the partial participation of

State and local agencies for notifications and communications only. The licensee had scheduled, planned, and coordinated the 1993 exercise with participating Federal, State, and local agencies for November 30, 1993. The scope and objectives, and the final scenario documentation for the November 1993 exercise were submitted to the NRC on September 13, 1993, and October 14, 1993, respectively, which is within the time frame established for their submittal in support of a November 1993 exercise. In addition, the licensee states that a training exercise with the State of South Carolina and local governmental agencies was conducted on November 16, 1993, which activated all emergency facilities and included participation from all major responder groups.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because the licensee would not have sufficient staff to meaningfully exercise the HBR Emergency Plan due to resource constraints caused by an unscheduled outage to investigate and address core design issues.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption does not involve any measurable environmental impacts since the exemption deals with the exercise of the licensee's emergency plan. Plant configuration and operations are not changed. Thus, the proposed exemption would not affect the probability or consequences of a potential reactor accident and would not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves only the emergency plan exercises. It does not affect

nonradiological plant effluents and there are no other nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the staff has concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require strict compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2., for the licensee at HBR to annually exercise its emergency plan. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in a diversion of plant resources from addressing important health and safety issues.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This exemption from the scheduled exercise in November 1993 does not reduce the use of resources since the schedule for future exercises will not be affected by this exemption. The licensee has stated it will conduct the previously scheduled 1994 exercise in November 1994, as planned. Thus, the requested exemption would provide only temporary relief from the requirement to conduct an annual exercise.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff consulted with the State of South Carolina regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

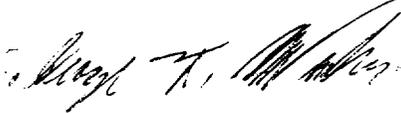
Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on

the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated November 21, 1993, as supplemented November 22, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Hartsville Memorial Library, Home and Fifth Avenues, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of December 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George F. Wunder, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation