

February 9, 1996

Mr. C. S. Hinnant, Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50,
APPENDIX R, SECTION III.J - H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT,
UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M91619)

Dear Mr. Hinnant:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your letter dated February 2, 1995, as supplemented May 15, 1995, and September 29, 1995, requesting an exemption from certain technical requirements of Section III.J of Appendix R to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 50) for H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2 (HBR). Section III.J of Appendix R requires that emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply be provided in all areas needed for operation of post-fire safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto. Specifically, you requested approval to use the diesel-backed security lighting system for manual operation of certain valves located in outside areas.

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

Docket No. 50-261

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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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

Docket No. 50-261

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Mr. C. S. Hinnant
Carolina Power & Light Company

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

cc:

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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 an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, 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 the use of the diesel-backed security lighting system for access and egress to, and operation of, auxiliary feedwater (AFW) valves AFW-1 and AFW-104 and instrument air (IA) valve IA-297.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because failure to isolate valves AFW-1 and AFW-104 due to poor lighting could result in overfilling the condensate storage tank (CST) with service water after switchover of the AFW cooling source from the CST to the service water system.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption does not involve any measurable environmental impacts since the proposed lighting would provide adequate lighting to allow for operation of the safe shutdown equipment identified in the licensee's request. 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 does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and there are no other nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require strict compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III, for the licensee at HBR to provide emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply in all areas needed for operation of post-fire safe shutdown equipment and in access and egress routes thereto.

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are of a very low likelihood and therefore insignificant.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This exemption does not reduce the use of resources that were not already considered in the Final Environmental Statement of HBR. Thus, the requested exemption would provide only relief from the requirement to install 8-hour emergency lighting where existing security lighting is adequate to meet the underlying purpose of the rule.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 8, 1996, the NRC staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Mr. James Peterson of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

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 February 2, 1995, as supplemented May 15, 1995, and September 29, 1995, 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, 147 West College Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of February 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation