

January 5, 1987

Docket No. 50-400

Mr. E. E. Utley, Senior Executive  
Vice President  
Power Supply and Engineering and  
Construction  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

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Dear Mr. Utley:

Subject: Environmental Assessment of Exemption Request Relating to 10 CFR 50,  
Appendix E, for Shearon Harris, Unit 1

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 March 4, 1986, as supplemented May 2, June 10, and July 10, 1986, requesting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.1, regarding the conduct of a full participation emergency preparedness exercise within one year before operation above 5% of rated power.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bart C. Buckley, Project Manager  
PWR Project Directorate #2  
Division of PWR Licensing-A  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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Mr. E. E. Utley  
Carolina Power & Light Company

Shearon Harris

cc:

Thomas A. Baxter, Esq.  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
2300 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Mr. Travis Payne, Esq.  
723 W. Johnson Street  
Post Office Box 12643  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

Mr. D. E. Hollar  
Associate General Counsel  
Carolina Power and Light Company  
P.O. Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Daniel F. Read  
CHANGE  
Post Office Box 2151  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. H. A. Cole  
Special Deputy Attorney General  
State of North Carolina  
Post Office Box 629  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Bradley W. Jones, Esq.  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Comm.  
Region II  
101 Marietta Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Resident Inspector/Harris NPS  
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Route 1, Box 315B  
New Hill, North Carolina 27562

Richard D. Wilson, M.D.  
725 Hunter Street  
Apex, North Carolina 27502

Mr. R. A. Watson  
Vice President  
Harris Nuclear Plant  
P.O. Box 165  
New Hill, North Carolina 27562

Regional Administrator, Region II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta Street  
Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. John Runkle, Executive Coordinator  
Conservation Council of North Carolina  
307 Granville Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Mr. Robert P. Gruber  
Executive Director  
Public Staff - NCUC  
Post Office Box 29520  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0520

Mr. Wells Eddleman  
812 Yancey Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701

Mr. J. L. Willis  
Plant General Manager  
Harris Nuclear Plant  
P.O. Box 165  
New Hill, North Carolina 27562

Dr. Linda Little  
Governor's Waste Management Board  
513 Albemarle Building  
325 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Mr. Dayne H. Brown, Chief  
Radiation Protection Section  
Division of Facility Services  
N.C. Department of Human Resources  
701 Barbour Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-2008

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
NORTH CAROLINA EASTERN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY  
DOCKET NO. 50-400  
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from a portion of the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), and North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (the licensees) for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, located in Wake and Chatham Counties, North Carolina. The exemption was requested by the licensees by letter from CP&L dated March 4, 1986.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The exemption will permit the licensees, following the Commission's issuance of a full power operating license for the facility, to operate the unit above 5% of its rated power without conducting another offsite full participation emergency preparedness exercise prior to February 1987.

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Section IV.F.1 of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, requires that a full participation exercise of the offsite emergency preparedness plans be conducted within 1 year prior to operation above 5% of rated power. The Harris emergency plan was previously exercised on May 17-18 1985, with State and local participation.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed to permit the licensee to proceed with operation above 5% of rated power prior to conducting another offsite emergency preparedness exercise. The next exercise with full participation at the State and County level is presently scheduled for February 1987. This date would not be timely for Harris, which is expected to be ready in January 1987 for operation above 5% of rated power.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The exemption would not affect the environmental impact of the facility because the level of emergency preparedness will not be degraded by its issuance. Both FEMA and the NRC concluded from the May 1985 exercise that the results provide reasonable assurance of adequate offsite emergency preparedness relative to the Harris Plant. Therefore, the proposed exemption does not involve a significant radiological environmental impact. In addition, the action would have no effect on nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the Harris Plant.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because the staff has concluded that there is no significant impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Shearon Harris, Unit 1, dated October 1983.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff consulted FEMA regarding its report of the May 1985 exercise. No other agencies or persons were contacted.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that proposed action will not have significant effect on the quality of the human environment. The Commission has, therefore, determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated March 4, 1986, as supplemented May 2, June 10, and July 10, 1986, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Richard B. Harrison Library, 1313 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina 27610.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 5th day of January, 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Lester S. Rubenstein, Director  
PWR Project Directorate #2  
Division of PWR Licensing-A  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation