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Mr. J. A. Hancock
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Florida Power Corporation
ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Licensing
& Fuel Management
P. O. Box 14042, M.A.C. H-2
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Dear Mr. Hancock:

By letter dated December 29, 1982, Florida Power Corporation requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.3.b of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 for Crystal River Unit 3. The exemption would remove the requirement to install a fixed fire suppression system in the control room. The Commission has granted this request as described in the enclosed Exemption.

A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:"

Morton B. Fairtile, Project Manager
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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cc w/enclosure(s):
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION, ET AL)
Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear)
Generating Plant)

Docket No. 50-302

EXEMPTION

I.

The Florida Power Corporation (the licensee) and eleven other co-owners hold Facility Operating License No. DPR-72, which authorizes the licensee to operate the Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (the facility). This license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect. The facility is a pressurized water reactor (PWR) located at the licensee's site in Citrus County, Florida.

II.

On November 19, 1980, the Commission published a revised Section 10 CFR 50.48 and a new Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 regarding fire protection features of nuclear power plants (45 F.R. 76602). The revised Section 50.48 and Appendix R became effective on February 17, 1981. Section III of Appendix R contains fifteen subsections, lettered A through O, each of which specifies requirements for a particular aspect of the fire protection features at a nuclear power plant. One of these fifteen subsections, III.G, is the subject of this Exemption. Subsection III.G specifies detailed requirements for fire protection of the equipment used for safe shutdown by means of separation and barriers (III.G.2).

If the requirements for separation and barriers could not be met in an area, alternative safe shutdown capability, independent of that area and equipment in that area, is required (III.G.3).

By letter dated December 29, 1982, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.3.b to the extent that it requires the installation of a fixed fire suppression system in the control room. In support of this request, the licensee notes the existing fire protection features, and the fact that the control room is continuously manned.

III.

We have reviewed the licensee's exemption request. The control room is enclosed by walls, floor and ceiling of reinforced concrete construction, sufficient to achieve a three-hour fire rating. Openings into the room are protected by fire doors, dampers and fire rated penetration seals. Safe shutdown equipment in the room consists of the main control consoles and cabinets, including redundant control cables, indicating instruments and relays.

Existing fire protection consists of smoke and heat detection systems located throughout the room and inside the control cabinets. This protection is supplemented by portable fire extinguishers and manual hose stations. The fire loading in the control room is low. The room is continuously manned. In the event the control room becomes uninhabitable due to smoke or heat, an alternate capability to achieve safe shutdown, outside the control room, exists.

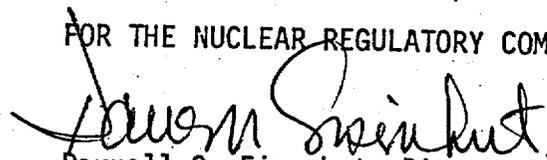
The intent of Section III.G is to require an acceptable level of fire safety to assure the maintenance of safe shutdown capability. Because the control room is continuously manned and fire extinguishing equipment is located in the control room, there is reasonable assurance that a fire would be promptly extinguished. In our judgment, a fixed suppression system in the control room should be avoided because of the potentially adverse impact of an inadvertent initiation. Therefore, the installation of a fixed fire suppression system will not significantly increase the level of fire protection in the control room and the exemption requested by the licensee should be granted.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest and hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of Section III.G.3.b of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 to the extent that it requires the installation of a fixed fire suppression system in the control room at Crystal River Unit No. 3.

The NRC staff has determined that the granting of this Exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 7th day of February 1983.