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Docket No. 50-302

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Mr. Walter S. Wilgus
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. Wilgus:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
EXEMPTIONS FROM APPENDIX R, 10 CFR PART 50, CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your letters dated September 24, October 5, 1984 and December 11, 1984, in which you requested exemptions from the requirements of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50 for Crystal River Unit 3.

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

Sincerely,

**"ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JOHN F. STOLZ"**

John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. W. S. Wilgus
Florida Power Corporation

Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear
Generating Plant

cc:

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Attorney General
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER CORPORATION, ET AL.DOCKET NO. 50-302ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 to the Florida Power Corporation (the licensee) for the Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3) located in Citrus County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemptions are related to Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Section III.G calls for fire protection features to protect structures, systems, and components important to safe shutdown. This protection can be obtained by separation, utilization of fire barriers, installation of fire detection and suppression systems, enclosure of cable and equipment, and alternative or dedicated shutdown capability. The licensee requested exemptions for Crystal River Unit 3 in the areas of separation of redundant safe shutdown trains by 3-hour fire rated barriers, and alternative or dedicated shutdown capability with fire detection and suppression systems.

These exemptions are responsive to the licensee's letters requesting exemptions dated September 24, October 5, 1984 and December 11, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemptions are needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing fire protection at their plant for these items are the most practical method for meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemptions will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by Appendix R for other areas of the plant such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor do the proposed exemptions otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR 20. They do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for Crystal River Unit 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

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

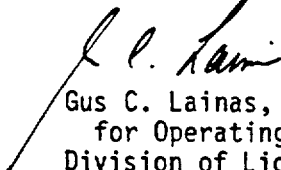
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Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the letters requesting the exemptions dated September 24, 1984, October 5, 1984, and December 11, 1984, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555 and at the Crystal River Public Library, 668 N.W. First Avenue, Crystal River, Florida.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 11th day of July, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing