

June 21, 1985

Docket No. 50-302

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:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your application dated October 22, 1984, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) for the Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant.

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

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Harley Silver, Project Manager  
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:

Mr. R. W. Neiser  
Senior Vice President  
and General Counsel  
Florida Power Corporation  
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St Petersburg, Florida 33733

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Board of County Commissioners  
Citrus County  
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Nuclear Plant Manager  
Florida Power Corporation  
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Mr. Robert B. Borsum  
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Nuclear Power Generation Division  
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Mr. Tom Stetka, Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Crystal River, Florida 32629

Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator  
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Administrator  
Department of Environmental Regulation  
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State of Florida  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Attorney General  
Department of Legal Affairs  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

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

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) to Florida Power Corporation (the licensee), for the Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant, located in Citrus County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would permit the licensee not to install a reactor vessel head vent as required by 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii).

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated October 22, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The licensee has performed tests using the Once-Through Integral System (OTIS) facility. The purpose of these tests was to determine if reactor core cooldown can be maintained in the absence of a vessel head vent to release noncondensable gases from the vessel during an accident. Based on results of the OTIS tests, the licensee concluded that a reactor vessel head vent is not needed since other high point vents can be used to release gases.

Furthermore, the licensee has committed to implement appropriate emergency procedures to assure reactor core cooling in the absence of a vessel head vent.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption, as supported by the licensee's test results and commitment, will provide assurance of reactor core cooling that is equivalent to that required by 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) such that there is no increase in the risk of accidents at this facility. The probability of accidents will not be increased and the post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor will the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

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 the Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant.

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

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

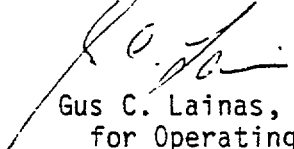
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 application for the exemption dated October 22, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Crystal River Public Library, 668 N.W. First Avenue, Crystal River, Florida.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 21st day of June.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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