

Mr. Roy A. Anderson  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Operations (SA2A)  
Florida Power Corporation  
ATTN: Manager, Nuclear  
Licensing  
15760 W Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 3  
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT  
(TAC No. M99892)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Commission has forwarded a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing" to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. A copy is enclosed for your information.

The notice relates to your application dated October 31, 1997, in which you requested an amendment involving changes to the Crystal River 3 methodology for post-loss of coolant accident boron precipitation prevention.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. Raghavan, Sr. Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

ENCLOSURE COPY

Docket 50-302

Enclosure: Notice of Consideration of  
Issuance of Amendment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 4, 1997

Mr. Roy A. Anderson  
Senior Vice President  
Nuclear Operations (SA2A)  
Florida Power Corporation  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raghavan", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

L. Raghavan, Sr. Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket 50-302

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Issuance of Amendment

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Mr. Roy A. Anderson  
Florida Power Corporation

**CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3**

cc:

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Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Citrus County  
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-302NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS  
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR 72, issued to the Florida Power Corporation, (FPC or the licensee), for operation of the Crystal River Nuclear Generating Unit 3 (CR3) located in Citrus County, Florida.

The proposed amendment addresses the methodology for post-loss of coolant accident (LOCA) boron precipitation prevention for CR-3. FPC concludes that the change in boron precipitation prevention methodology represents an unreviewed safety question (USQ) in that it involves a change in the previously NRC-approved methodologies by incorporating credit for hot leg nozzle gaps into its design and licensing basis as a qualified passive method for boron precipitation mitigation under certain scenarios. Therefore, this action requires NRC approval.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

This LAR [license amendment request] addresses the methodology that will be used following a design basis LOCA to ensure that the boron concentration in the reactor vessel does not reach the solubility limit during long term cooling. This methodology utilizes systems and procedures that will be implemented following the previously evaluated accident (i.e., a LOCA). This proposed change does not result in any modifications to the plant or change in a procedure that is used prior to the postulated accident; therefore, these changes cannot result in an increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

The methodology in this LAR will be implemented to ensure that boron precipitation, which may interfere with long term cooling, will not occur following a design basis LOCA. This methodology consists of systems and procedures to provide additional defense in depth that for varying plant conditions will prevent the boron concentration in the RV [reactor vessel] from reaching the boron solubility limits. Evaluations are provided in this submittal that conclude that these methods are effective.

By ensuring that boron solubility limits are not reached in the RV, the analyses for the ECCS [emergency core cooling system] that ensure adequate core cooling following a design basis LOCA remain applicable. Therefore, the consequences of accidents previously evaluated are not increased and offsite dose consequences remain a small fraction of 10 CFR Part 100 limits.

2. Does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed changes reflect the methodology that will be used for CR-3 following a design basis accident to prevent a boron precipitation event, which previously has been evaluated. The proposed LAR does not involve any new accident initiators nor any modification to the plant nor a change in the operation of the plant prior to the postulated design basis LOCA. Therefore, the possibility of a new or different kind of accident is not created.

3. Does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

This change does not result in a reduction to the margin of safety for any accident. The proposed LAR ensures adequate defense in depth in that systems and procedures available following a design basis LOCA will prevent the precipitation of boron in the RV that could interfere with ECCS flow.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very

infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By December 12, 1997, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida.

If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,

designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support



the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.


A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to R. Alexander Glenn, General Counsel, Florida Power Corporation, MAC - A5A, P. O. Box 14042, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-4042, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 31, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room, located at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of November 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



L. Raghavan, Sr. Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation