

March 12, 1992

Docket No. 50-302

Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.
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ATTN: Manager, Nuclear
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Dear Mr. Beard:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT - CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 (TAC NO. 81523)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated August 16, 1991 for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-72 for Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3). The application requested a change to the operating license pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90 to reflect the transfer of Sebring Utilities Commission 0.4473 percent ownership (possession only) share to Florida Power Corporation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Harley Silver, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-302ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-72 issued to Florida Power Corporation (FPC) for operation, and FPC, et al. for possession, of Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Station, located in Crystal River, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed amendment would revise the operating license to delete Sebring Utilities Commission (Sebring) as a participating owner of CR-3 and as a licensee (possession only) under this license, in order to recognize the purchase of Sebring's 0.4473 percent ownership share by FPC. Presently, FPC owns 90% of CR-3, with portions of the remaining 10% owned by 11 municipalities and cooperatives, including Sebring. FPC alone is licensed to operate CR-3. FPC and Sebring have entered into an agreement under which FPC would purchase the 0.4473 percent share owned by Sebring, which would increase FPC's ownership share to 90.4473 percent. Ownership shares of the other 10 participants would not change. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated August 16, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is required to reflect the ownership change discussed above. The amendment reflecting the transfer of Sebring's possession-only interest in the license will have minimal impact on the operation of the facility by FPC. The transfer and amendment will not affect the facility's Technical Specifications, license conditions, or the organization and practices of FPC.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed license amendment and concludes that there will be no changes to CR-3 or the environment as a result of this action. The transfer of Sebring's possession-only interest in the license and the associated license amendment will not affect the numbers, qualifications, or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate the facility, as FPC will remain the holder of the operating license and continue to be responsible for the operation of CR-3. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no radiological or non-radiological environmental impact.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on February 5, 1992 (57 FR 4487). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any

alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in no benefits to the public or the parties involved.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant, issued in May, 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons regarding this environmental assessment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

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 application for the license amendment dated August 16, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building,

2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Coastal Region Library,
8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida 32029.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of March 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jan A. Norris, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation