

September 19, 1991

Docket No. 50-302

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Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.  
 Senior Vice President,  
 Nuclear Operations  
 Florida Power Corporation  
 ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Operations  
 Licensing  
 P. O. Box 219-NA-2I  
 Crystal River, Florida 32629

Dear Mr. Beard:

SUBJECT: CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING  
 OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATING TO EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS  
 OF APPENDIX J, 10 CFR PART 50 (TAC NO. 79883)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated January 31, 1991, as supplemented May 16, 1991, regarding your request for exemption from the requirements of Section III.D.2(a) and III.D.3 of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 for Crystal River Unit 3.

This assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

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

Enclosure:  
 As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
 See next page

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*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
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Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.  
Florida Power Corporation

Crystal River Unit No. 3 Nuclear  
Generating Plant

cc:

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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 the issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Florida Power Corporation (FPC, the licensee) for the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Station (CR-3) located in Citrus County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would grant a one-time relief from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, paragraphs III.D.2(a) and III.D.3 to perform Type B and C tests within a 2-year interval. In addition, related changes to the Technical Specifications would be forthcoming. The requested exemption would allow the licensee to defer the Type B and C testing until prior to startup from the next refueling outage scheduled to begin April 30, 1992, an extension of approximately 2 months.

The licensee's request for exemption and bases therefor are contained in a letter dated January 31, 1991, as supplemented May 16, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from performing Type B and C tests for containment penetrations and containment isolation valves, which would otherwise require testing between March 1992 and May 1992. This would enable CR-3 to continue normal plant operation and therefore prevent an unnecessary premature shutdown of CR-3.

The purpose of the Type B and C testing is to assure leak-tight integrity of containment isolation valves and penetrations through verification of acceptable leakage by test. It also provides assurance that periodic surveillance, maintenance and repairs are made to systems or components penetrating the containment. During the last two Type C tests, the licensee took corrective actions for valve repair to reduce containment isolation valve leakage. In addition, the licensee has provided a summary of previous leak test results, which showed leakage to be a small fraction of acceptable values.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time relief from the schedular requirements to perform Type B and C tests within a 2-year period. Because of the short extension requested, the previous satisfactory leak test results, and the low likelihood of significant degradation of components involved during the extension period, the proposed exemption will not negatively impact containment integrity and would not significantly change the risk from any postulated accidents. Therefore, post-accident radiological releases will not be significantly greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the proposed exemption would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the staff concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because it has been concluded that there are no measurable impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to the exemption will have either no environmental impacts or greater environmental impacts.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of CR-3 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for CR-3 which was issued in May 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

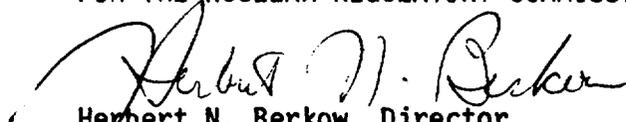
Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, dated January 31, 1991, as supplemented May 16, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the

Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida 32629.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 19th day of September.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation