

May 7, 1997

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

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 73.55, REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF LICENSED ACTIVITIES IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REACTORS AGAINST RADIOLOGICAL SABOTAGE - CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M92766)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Commission has issued the enclosed exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 73.55 relating to issuance, storage and retrieval of badges for contractors who have been granted unescorted access to the protected areas of the site. This exemption is related to your application dated June 22, 1995, as supplemented November 22, 1995, and January 31, 1996, to implement a hand geometry biometric system for site access control at Crystal River 3 such that photograph identification badges can be taken offsite.

A copy of the exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Within 90 days of issuance of this letter, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(p), please submit your revised Physical Security Plans reflecting relevant changes as a result of this exemption.

If you have any questions, please call us at (301) 415-1471.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure: Exemption

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Dated: MAY 7, 1997

EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 73.55, REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF LICENSED ACTIVITIES IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REACTORS AGAINST RADIOLOGICAL SABOTAGE - CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M92766)

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**CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3
GENERATING PLANT**

cc:

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that an individual not employed by the licensee (i.e., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas without escort provided the individual "receives a picture badge upon entrance into the protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area...."

The licensee proposed to implement an alternative unescorted access control system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve badges at each entrance/exit location and would allow all individuals with unescorted access to keep their badge with them when departing the site.

An exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) is required to allow contractors who have unescorted access to take their badges offsite instead of returning them when exiting the site.

By letter dated June 22, 1995, as supplemented November 22, 1995 and January 31, 1996, the licensee submitted its exemption request for this purpose.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest. Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the Commission may authorize a licensee to provide alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage provided the licensee demonstrates that the alternative measures have "the same high assurance objective" and meet "the general performance requirements" of the regulation, and "the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent" to that which would be provided by the regulation.

Currently, unescorted access into the protected areas of Crystal River Unit 3 is controlled through the use of a photograph on a badge and a separate keycard (hereafter, these are referred to as badge). The security officers at each entrance station use the photograph on the badge to visually identify the individual requesting access. The badges for both licensee employees and contract personnel, who have been granted unescorted access, are issued upon entrance at each entrance/exit location and are returned upon exit. The badges are stored and are retrievable at each entrance/exit location. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractors are not allowed to take badges offsite. In accordance with the CR3 physical security plan, neither licensee employees nor contractors are allowed to take badges offsite.

Under the proposed system, each individual who is authorized for unescorted entry into protected areas would have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their badge number in the access control computer system. When an individual enters the badge into the card reader and places the hand on the measuring surface, the system would record the individual's hand image. The unique characteristics of the extracted hand image would be compared with the previously stored template in the access control computer system to verify authorization for entry. Individuals, including licensee employees and contractors, would be allowed to keep their badges with them when they depart the site and thus eliminate the process to issue, retrieve and store badges at the entrance stations to the plants. Badges do not carry any information other than a unique identification number. All other access processes, including search function capability, would remain the same. This system would not be used for persons requiring escorted access, i.e. visitors.

Based on a Sandia report entitled, "A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices" (SAND91--0276 UC--906 Unlimited Release, printed June 1991), and on its experience with the current photo-identification system, the licensee demonstrated that the false-acceptance rate for the hand geometry system will be better than is achieved by the current system. The biometric system has been in use for a number of years at several sensitive Department of Energy facilities. The licensee will implement a process for testing the proposed system to ensure continued overall level of performance equivalent to that specified in the regulation. The CR3 Physical Security Plan will be revised to include implementation and testing of the hand geometry access control system and to allow licensee employees and contractors to take their badges offsite.

The licensee will control all points of personnel access into a protected area under the observation of security personnel through the use of a badge and verification of hand geometry. A numbered picture badge identification system will continue to be used for all individuals who are authorized unescorted access to protected areas. Badges will continue to be displayed by all individuals while inside the protected area.

Since both the badge and hand geometry would be necessary for access into the protected area, the proposed system would provide for a positive verification process and potential loss of a badge by an individual, as a result of taking the badge offsite, would not enable an unauthorized entry into protected areas.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet "the same high assurance objective," and "the

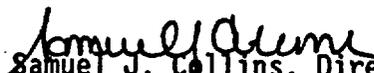
general performance requirements" of the regulation and that "the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent" to that which would be provided by the regulation.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Florida Power Corporation an exemption from those requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) relating to the returning of picture badges upon exit from the protected area such that individuals not employed by the licensee (i.e., contractors, who are authorized unescorted access into the protected area) can take their badges offsite provided that the licensee implements a process testing of the proposed system and revise the CR3 Physical Security Plan as described in section III above.

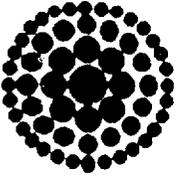
Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact (62 FR 24982).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 7th day of May 1997



Florida Power

CORPORATION
Crystal River Unit 3
Docket No. 80-302

November 22, 1995
3F1195-18

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Request for Exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), Use of Hand Geometry Devices (Biometrics), Supplement 1

References: FPC to NRC letter, 3F0695-06, dated June 22, 1995

Dear Sir:

In the reference letter, Florida Power Corporation (FPC) requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) to allow contractors to carry plant identification badges home. Issuance of this exemption will allow FPC to utilize hand geometry devices in conjunction with identification badges to gain access to the protected area of Crystal River 3 (CR-3) in lieu of members of the security force issuing badges at the access control point. Since the reference exemption request was filed, the NRC Staff has requested additional information regarding access control to CR-3. The attachment to this letter provides the requested information.

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