

February 7, 1985

Docket No. 50-416

Mr. J. B. Richard
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Mississippi Power and Light Company
P.O. Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

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Dear Mr. Richard:

Subject: Environmental Assessment

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your December 31, 1984, request for an exemption to defer submittal of an updated Final Safety Analysis Report for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/S/

Elinor Adensam, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 4
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
F. R. Notice

cc: See next page

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GRAND GULF

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Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
MIDDLE SOUTH ENERGY, INC.
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION
DOCKET NO. 50-416
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(3)(i) to the Mississippi Power & Light Company, Middle South Energy, Inc., and South Mississippi Electric Power Association (the licensee) for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1, located at the licensee's site in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to submit an updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for Unit 1 of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) within 24 months of the issuance of the operating license. An operating license was issued for Grand Gulf Unit 1 on June 16, 1982. By letter dated February 6, 1984, licensee requested an exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e) which would have deferred submittal of the UFSAR until 12 months after Unit 2 was licensed on the basis that the FSAR is written for both Unit 1 and Unit 2 of GGNS. By letter dated June 26, 1984, the NRC staff denied that request because Unit 2 is scheduled to be completed after 1990 and staff requested licensee to provide a modified exemption request. By letter dated December 31, 1984, licensee requested an exemption to defer submittal of the UFSAR for Unit 1 of

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GGNS until December 1, 1985. The deferral of the UFSAR submittal until December 1, 1985, is the proposed action being considered by the staff.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The operating license issued on June 16, 1982 (NPF-13) authorized fuel loading and low power operation. The authorization for operation above 5% power was issued on August 31, 1984. The licensee is now engaged in startup testing and expects to complete such testing in March 1985. The time interval between issuance of the low power license and authorization of full power operation (about 26 months) is considerably longer for GGNS Unit 1 than the time interval between the low power license issuance and the full power license issuance for most other recent plants.

For most plants, ample time is available after completion of startup testing for updating the FSAR within the 24 month interval allowed in 10 CFR 50.71(e). However, for Grand Gulf, power ascension testing did not start within the required 24 month interval. It is desirable to complete low power and power ascension testing and to place the plant in commercial operation before updating the FSAR so that design modifications found necessary by testing can be incorporated and so that licensee's engineering personnel who are heavily involved in the support of startup testing and resultant plant modifications can be used in preparing and reviewing the updated FSAR. Thus, for Grand Gulf Unit 1, there is a need to extend the date for submittal of the updated Final Safety Analysis Report. The requested extension to December 1, 1985, (8 months after startup testing is scheduled to be completed) will allow the licensee's engineering personnel necessary and sufficient time to concentrate on startup testing and resultant design changes before concentrating on the engineering review associated with the preparation of the UFSAR.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the required date for updating the FSAR and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously, and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require an earlier date for submittal of the UFSAR. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in unnecessary diversion of utility engineering resources from safety related work.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station.

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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact state-

ment for the proposed exemption. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC staff 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 proposed action, see the licensee's letters dated February 6 and December 31, 1984, and the NRC staff's letter dated June 26, 1984. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Hinds Jr. College, George M. McLendon Library, Raymond, Mississippi 39154.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 6th day of February 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation