

November 10, 1987

Docket No. 50-416

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Post Office Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

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SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION REQUEST RELATED TO
10 CFR PART 20, APPENDIX A, FOR GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION,
UNIT 1 (TAC NO. 65657)

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice relates to your request dated June 29, 1987, as supplemented August 21, 1987.

The request is for exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, footnote d-2(c) to allow the use of a radioiodine protection factor of 50 when using the Mine Safety Appliances GMR-1 canisters.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Lester L. Kintner, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

*See previous concurrence

*LA:PDII-2
DMiller
10/ /87

*PM:PDII-2
LKintner:bg
10/ /87

D:PDII-2
HBerkow
10/7/87

OGC
M. Young
10/2/87

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Lester L. Kintner, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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DMiller
10/6/87

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10/6/87

D:PDII-2
HBerkow
10/ /87

OGC
10/ /87

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, Jr.
System Energy Resources, Inc.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS)

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State Health Officer
State Board of Health
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Jackson, Mississippi 39205

President
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MISSISSIPPI POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
SYSTEM ENERGY RESOURCES, 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 requirements of 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, footnote d-2(c) to Mississippi Power and Light Company, et al. (the licensee), for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1, (the facility) located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

Footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR 20 states, "No allowance is to be made for use of sorbents against radioactive gases or vapor." The proposed exemption would allow the use of a radioiodine protection factor of 50 when using the mine safety appliances (MSA) GMR-1 canisters at the facility. The proposed exemption is in response to the licensee's application dated June 29, 1987, as supplemented August 21, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed to facilitate certain operations at the facility in areas where airborne radioiodine levels necessitate respiratory protection for workers. The requested exemption would allow utilization of air-purifying respirators in lieu of supplied-air or self-contained apparatuses.

A supplied-air respirator can limit a worker's efficiency because the worker is restricted to the area within the reach of his air-supply hose. A self-contained breathing apparatus is usually very heavy and cumbersome, and has a limited air supply. Therefore, a person using this type of apparatus is less mobile and less efficient in performing his duties. Air-purifying respirators, on the other hand, are lightweight, and their use would reduce the worker's physical work effort and time spent in the work area, and thereby result in less personnel radiation exposure."

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption involves a change in the installation or use of the facility's components located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the proposed exemption will result in a small increase in the amount of low-level solid waste due to the disposal of used sorbent canisters. However, the proposed exemption involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite. Because the use of air-purifying respirators will allow the plant workers to perform their jobs more efficiently than could be done using supplied-air or self-contained apparatuses, this exemption will most likely reduce the individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station by decreasing worker time spent in radiation areas. The exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since we have concluded there are no significant environmental impacts for the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such an action would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1, dated September 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission 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 dated June 29, 1987, as supplemented August 21, 1987, which are available

for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Hinds Junior College, McLendon Library, Raymond, Mississippi 39154.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 10th day of November, 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Herbert" being more prominent and the last name "Berkow" following in a similar style.

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