

August 31, 2004

Mr. Dale E. Young, Vice President  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA1B)  
ATTN: Supervisor, Licensing and  
Regulatory Programs  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CRYSTAL RIVER, UNIT 3, AMENDMENT REQUEST  
REGARDING INTEGRATED LEAKAGE RATE TESTING SURVEILLANCE  
INTERVAL EXTENSION TO 20 YEARS (TAC NO. MC3697)

Dear Mr. Young:

On July 1, 2004, Florida Power Corporation, doing business as Progress Energy Florida, Inc., submitted a license amendment request to change the Crystal River Unit 3 (CR-3) Facility Operating License in accordance with 10 CFR 50.90. Your request proposed a revision to the CR-3 Improved Technical Specification 5.6.2.20, "Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program," to allow a 20-year integrated leak rate test (ILRT) interval. Further, you stated in the July 1, 2004, letter that you intended for the NRC staff to treat the submittal as a pilot application to assist in developing a revision to Regulatory Guide 1.163 (1995). The NRC would only consider such a revision after completion a safety evaluation in support of extending the ILRT interval. No revision is planned at this time.

During the NRC staff's acceptance review, we noted that the supporting risk assessment is based on a report that has not yet been reviewed (NEI 94-01, Revision 1, "Industry Guideline for Implementing Performance-Based Option of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J"). Furthermore, in the April 27, 2004, letter from A. Pietrangelo of NEI to the NRC that transmitted this report for NRC review, CR-3 was not identified as a lead plant for the report. The NEI report is still in the acceptance review process and no schedule has been established at this time.

In conclusion, your requested date of July 2005 is not feasible given the status of the NEI report review. Therefore, based on the incomplete technical basis for the CR-3 request, the NRC is rejecting this license amendment request. Upon future completion of the NEI report review, you may resubmit your request, and the NRC staff will consider your request based on current regulatory requirements.

D. Young

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Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.9(a), the NRC staff has determined not to act on your request as proposed in your July 1, 2004, letter. This completes the NRC staff's activity on TAC No. MC3697.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-2020.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Edwin M. Hackett, Director  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

cc: See next page

D. Young

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Crystal River Nuclear Plant, Unit 3

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