

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONFLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYTURKEY POINT UNITS 3 AND 4DOCKET NOS. 50-250 AND 50-251ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-31 and DPR-41 for operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated July 31, 1997, as supplemented by submittals dated July 2, and October 27, 1998, for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix R, "Fire Protection Program for Nuclear Power Facilities Operating Prior to January 1, 1979," for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. Specifically, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirements of Appendix R, Subsection III.G.2.a, for raceway fire barriers in the Open Turbine Building.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The Thermo-Lag fire barriers installed at Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 have a rating that does not meet the requirements specified in Subsection III.G.2.a. The proposed exemption is needed because compliance with the regulation would result in significant additional costs.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the underlying purpose of the regulation, to provide reasonable assurance that at least one means of achieving and maintaining safe shutdown conditions will remain available during and after any postulated fire in the plant, will be met. Accordingly, the proposed action will not result in an increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed or result in a change in occupational or public dose. Therefore, there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with this action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (no-action alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to operation of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, dated July 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 4, 1998, the NRC staff consulted with the Florida State official, Mr. William Passetti of the Bureau of Radiation Control, regarding the

environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

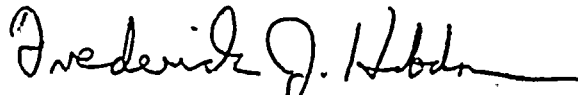
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request dated July 31, 1997, as supplemented by submittals dated July 2, and October 27, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Florida International University, University Park, Miami, Florida.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of November 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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