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Harold L. Price Director of Regulation

Peter A. Morris, Director Division of Reactor Licensing

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION'S CONSTRUCTION EXEMPTION REQUEST DOCKET NO. 50-302

By letter dated February 14, 1968, the Florida Power Corporation requested am exemption from the provisions of Section 50.10(b), pursuant to Section 50.12 of the Commission's rules to permit construction of the tendon gallery for the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant prior to issuance of a construction permit. Supplemental information on power margins was furnished by the Florida Power Corporation in a supplemental letter dated April 18, 1968.

The tendon gallery installation is required in order to accomplish pouring of a concrete leveling mat below the base slab of the reactor building, erection of forms and the loose placement of reinforcement steel for the base slab of the reactor building. The gallery is a reinforced concrete passage located below the containment building base slab but does not function as support for the building. The gallery is provided to permit installation of the containment building prestressing tendons and periodic inspection of the tendens.

The applicant's basis for performing the requested construction is that the gallery does not function as a safety feature of the containment building and that delaying of the placing of the gallery would delay the overall construction of the facility.

Our review of the exemption request indicates that although the tandon gallery is a functional part of the containment building from the viewpoint of installation and inspection of the prestressing tendons, it does not serve as a structural foundation. The geological considerations for the Crystal River site have been reviewed. It has been determined that the subsurface grouting, referred to in the applicant's request for exemption and his PSAR, provides an acceptable foundation in the native limestone. We conclude that installation of the tendon gallary would not present a safety problem, and therefore we have no objection to granting the request.

The applicant states in his supplemental letter that by summer 1972 the peak power load will be 1861 MW and the generation capacity exclusive of Crystal River Unit 3 will be 2065 MW. The margin of 204 MW is insufficient for maintenance outages, forced outages, or forecast errors.

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This request for an exemption is similar to those made by the Duke Power Company which was the subject of my memorandum to you dated July 28, 1967, and by the Metropolitan Edison Company in my memorandum to you dated November 18, 1967. The Duke Power Company exemption was subsequently issued by letter dated August 25, 1967, and the Metropolitan Edison exemption was granted on November 29, 1967.

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