

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

(Joseph M. Farley Nuclear
Plant, Units 1 And 2)Docket Nos. 50-348
and 50-364EXEMPTION AMENDMENT

I.

The Alabama Power Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-2 and NPF-8 which authorize full power operation of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant (Farley), Units 1 and 2. The licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission).

Farley, Units 1 and 2, consist of two pressurized water reactors at the licensee's site located near the City of Dothan, Alabama.

II.

10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, "Protection Factors for Respirators," establishes protection factors of air-purifying respirators for protection against particulates only. Furthermore, footnote d-2(c) states, "No allowance is to be made for the use of sorbents against radioactive gases or vapors." On October 23, 1984, the Commission granted an exemption to the facility from the restriction of 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix A, footnote d-2(c), and authorized the use of the Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) GMR-I canister with restrictions as shown in the staff's Safety Evaluation issued in support of that exemption.

By letter dated February 19, 1990, as supplemented June 11 and December 5, 1990, the licensee requested an amendment to the exemption to allow the MSA

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GMR-I canisters to be stored in a Class C storage environment as defined in ANSI N45.2.2, versus a Class A or better environment which is a restriction contained in the Safety Evaluation for the exemption granted October 23, 1984. The licensee provided a summary of test results from MSA justifying Class C storage requirements for the MSA GMR-I canisters.

In response to concerns identified by the staff, the licensee also included in the amendment request a commitment to a revised respirator fit factor for use of the MSA GMR-I canisters.

The staff has evaluated the information provided by the licensee to support the exemption amendment. The Safety Evaluation relating to the licensee's request concerning use of the MSA GMR-I canisters at Farley, Units 1 and 2, is being issued concurrently with this exemption amendment. The Safety Evaluation concludes that Class C storage and the revised fit factor are acceptable for use of radioiodine MSA GMR-I canisters.

III.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 20.501, an exemption amendment as requested by the licensee's letter of February 19, 1990, as supplemented June 11 and December 5, 1990, is authorized by law and will not result in undue hazard to life or property. The Commission hereby grants an amendment to the exemption granted October 23, 1984, and authorizes Class C storage for the MSA GMR-I canisters, subject to the restrictions shown in Attachment 1 to this exemption amendment. Attachment 1 contains the restrictions imposed by the exemption issued October 23, 1984, as modified by the exemption amendment. The exemption amendment is subject to modification by rule, regulation or Order of the Commission.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of the exemption amendment will have no significant impact on the environment (56 FR 5427).

This exemption amendment is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:

Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Usage Restrictions

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 12th day of February 1991

OFC	:LA:PD11-1	:PM:PD11-1	:PRPB	:OGC	:D:PD11-1	:AD/DRP
NAME	:PAnderson	:SHofman:sw			:Adensam	:GLares
DATE	:1/14/91	:1/14/91	:1/17/91	:1/24/91	:1/25/91	:2/13/90
OFC	:D:DVR					
NAME	:SVarga					
DATE	:2/19/91					

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Attachment I

Limitations, Usage Restrictions, and Controls Applicable to the Use of MSA GMR-I Canister at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

1. Protection factor equal to 50 as a maximum value.
2. The maximum permissible continuous use time is eight hours after which the canister will be discarded.
3. Canisters are not to be used in the presence of organic solvent vapors.
4. Canisters are to be stored in a Class C or better environment, as defined in ANSI N45.2.2.
5. Canister allowable service life is to be calculated from the time of unsealing the canister, including periods of non-exposure.
6. Canister is to be used with a full facepiece capable of providing a fit factor equal to or greater than 500.
7. Canisters are not to be used in total challenge concentrations of organic iodines and other halogenated compounds greater than 1 ppm, including nonradioactive compounds.
8. Canisters are not to be used in environments where temperatures are greater than 110°F.

In addition to the limitations and usage restrictions noted above, the following additional controls will be utilized by the licensee:

1. Temperatures will be measured each shift and/or coincidentally with operations which heat the work areas to assure that temperatures do not exceed 100°F during GMR-I canister use.
2. In initially implementing GMR-I canister use, the following program verification measures will be used:
 - a. weekly whole body counts for individuals using the GMR-I canister for radioiodine protection;
 - b. for individuals who exceed 20 MPC hours, a whole body count will be required prior to their next entry into a radioiodine atmosphere (i.e., effectively a 20 MPC hour stay time);
 - c. if an individual measures 70 nCi or greater iodine uptake to the thyroid during a whole body count, the individual's entry into radioiodine atmospheres will be restricted pending health physics evaluation;
 - d. a whole body count/survey data base will be compiled to evaluate the results of the program.

3. Technical Specification controls currently existing which restrict painting and chemical releases in areas served by safety-related ventilation filtration systems will provide sufficient restrictions for GMR-I use in these areas also. For other areas, painting or the use of organic substance will be prohibited while the GMR-I canister is in use.
4. Specific plant procedures will incorporate the limitations and usage restrictions listed as 1 through 8 above prior to GMR-I use. Additionally, a specific APCo procedure, FNP-0-RCP-117, "Issue and Use of GMR-I Iodine Canisters," has been prepared for field use of the GMR-I canister.
5. Existing respiratory protection program requirements and restrictions (e.g., physicals, fit tests, Part 20 requirements, Appendices A and B) still apply.