



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-302

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. DPR-72, issued to Florida Power Corporation, (the licensee), for operation of the Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR3), located in Citrus County, Florida.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated May 19, 1995, as supplemented August 8, 1995, for exemption from certain requirements of Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50 (10 CFR 50), Appendix J, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water Cooled Power Reactors," Paragraph III.D.1.(a), relating to Integrated Leak Rate Test (ILRT) frequency. The proposed exemption would allow CR3 a one-time interval extension for the Type A test (containment integrated leak rate test) by approximately 24 months from the spring 1996 refueling outage to the spring 1998 refueling outage.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," criterion 16, "Containment design," the "[r]eactor containment and associated systems shall be provided to establish an essentially leak-tight barrier against the uncontrolled release of radioactivity to the environment and to assure that the containment design conditions important to safety are not exceeded for as long as postulated accident conditions require." 10 CFR 50.54, "Conditions of License," paragraph O, states that "[p]rimary reactor containments for water cooled power reactors shall be subject to the requirements set forth in Appendix J to this part." 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, requires periodic verification by tests of the leak-tight integrity of the primary reactor containment and establishes the acceptance criteria for such tests. The purposes of the tests are to assure that periodic surveillance of reactor containment penetrations is performed so that proper maintenance and repairs are made during the service life of the containment and leakage through the primary reactor containment shall not exceed allowable leakage rate values as specified in the technical specifications or associated bases. Paragraph III.D.1 specifies that a set of three Type A tests is to be performed at approximately equal intervals during each 10-year service period. Such tests are to be limited to periods when the plant is non-operational and secured in the shutdown condition under the administrative controls and in accordance with the safety procedures defined in the license.

For CR3, the next available opportunity for performing the ILRT would be in Spring 1996. The licensee requested a one-time interval extension for the ILRT by approximately 24 months from the Spring 1996 refueling outage to the

Spring 1998 refueling outage. The licensee indicated that approval of its request would save over two million dollars and would reduce personnel radiation exposure. The proposed action is needed to permit the licensee to defer the ILRT.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed one-time exemption would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and the proposed one-time exemption would not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents.

In support of its exemption request, the licensee submitted information pertaining to Types A, B and C testing history, structural capability, and risk assessment.

Two ILRTs have been performed during the last seven years with successful results. There have been no permanent or temporary modifications to the containment structure, liner or penetrations since the last Type A test, and no future modifications are planned prior to the 1998 refueling outage which could adversely affect the Type A test results.

The licensee will continue to be required to conduct the Type B and C local leak rate tests which are, in general, the principal means of detecting containment leakage paths with the Type A tests confirming the Type B and C test results. Types B and C testing history at CR3 shows that the overall combined as-found leakage have been less than the allowed combined leakage rate of $0.6 L_g$ (266,431 SCCM) at the calculated maximum peak containment pressure as specified in Appendix J. The NRC staff considers that these inspections provide the necessary level of confidence in the continued

integrity of the containment boundary. It is also noted that the licensee, as a condition of the proposed exemption, will perform the visual containment inspection although it is required by Appendix J to be performed only in conjunction with Type A tests. The NRC staff considers that these inspections, though limited in scope, provide an important added level of confidence in the continued integrity of the containment boundary. The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action did not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements related to operation of Crystal River Unit 3, dated May 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 28, 1995, the NRC staff consulted with the State of Florida official, Dr. Lyle Jerretti, Office of Radiation Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

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, the Commission concludes 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 request for exemption dated May 19, 1995, as supplemented August 8, 1995, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the local public document room located at Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, Florida 32629.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of August 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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