

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCAROLINA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-325/324BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR PLANTENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11 from certain requirements of its regulations to an applicant for a Senior Reactor Operator License (applicant) at the Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, located in Brunswick County, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow the applicant to file a new application before the two-month waiting period required by 10 CFR 55.35(a) expires and, thereafter, to be re-administered a written examination during the week of December 18, 1995. In their written request, CP&L indicated that the applicant has entered a remediation process, and will be ready for re-examination the week of December 18, 1995.

The proposed action is in accordance with CP&L's request on behalf of its employee, the above-referenced applicant for a Senior Reactor Operator License, dated November 8, 1995, for an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.35(a).

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemption requested would allow the applicant to be administered a written re-examination during the week of December 18, 1995. This re-examination would be scheduled to coincide with a previously scheduled NRC initial examination visit, and would provide for re-examination prior to the expiration of a two-month time period required by 10 CFR 55.35(a) before an applicant can file a new application in order to retake an initial examination.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the request. The proposed exemption does not change the knowledge and skills requirements for licensing operators, and because the applicant must pass a written examination to be licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator, this proposed exemption would not increase the risk of facility accidents. In addition, the formal action of licensing an operator does not authorize changes to the facility's existing safety limits, safety settings, power operations, or effluent limits.

Because no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure, the change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Regarding potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action involves 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 that there is no measurable 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 staff considered denial of the requested exemption. Denial of the application would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation. 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 Statement for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Unit 1 and 2 dated January 1974.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 27, 1995, the staff consulted with the North Carolina State official, Mr. Johnny James, of the Division of Radiation Protection, North Carolina Department of Environmental, Commerce, and Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

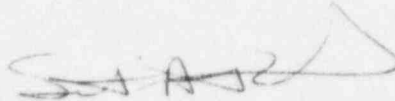
Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare

an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request on behalf of its employee for an exemption dated November 8, 1995, which is 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 University of North Carolina at Wilmington, William Madison Randall Library, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-3297.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 30th day of November, 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Stuart A. Richards, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch
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