

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)	
MIDDLE SOUTH ENERGY, INC., AND)	Docket No. 50-416
SOUTH MISSISSIPPI ELECTRIC POWER)	
ASSOCIATION)	
(Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1))	

EXEMPTION

I.

Mississippi Power & Light Company, Middle South Energy, Inc., and South Mississippi Electric Power Association (the licensees) are the holders of Facility Operating License No. NPF-29, issued November 1, 1984, which authorizes full power operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (the facility). A superseded license, NPF-13, issued June 16, 1982, authorized licensees to operate the facility at steady-state reactor power levels not in excess of 191 megawatts thermal. These licenses provide, among other things, that they are subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission.

II.

Section 50.71(e)(3)(i) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires the licensees of nuclear power reactors to submit an Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) within 24 months of either July 22, 1980, or the date of issuance of the operating license, whichever is later. The above regulation would have required submittal of the UFSAR for Grand Gulf Unit 1 by June 16, 1984.

By letter dated February 6, 1984, licensees requested an exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e) which would have deferred submittal of the UFSAR until 12 months after Unit 2 was licensed on the basis that the FSAR is written for both Unit 1

and Unit 2 of GGNS. By letter dated June 26, 1984, the NRC staff denied that request because Unit 2 is scheduled to be completed after 1990; and the staff requested the licensees to provide a modified exemption request. By letter dated December 31, 1984, the licensees requested an exemption to defer submittal of the UFSAR for Unit 1 of GGNS until December 1, 1985, on the basis that licensees' engineering personnel, who will be involved in the engineering review of the UFSAR, are needed to support startup testing of Grand Gulf Unit 1 now in progress.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensees' request for an extension of the Grand Gulf Unit 1 UFSAR submittal date to December 1, 1985. The extension is needed for Grand Gulf Unit 1 because of the long interval between issuance of the low power license and authorization of full power operation. For most plants, ample time is available after completion of startup testing for updating the FSAR within the 24 month interval allowed in 10 CFR 50.71(e). However, for Grand Gulf, power ascension testing started September 1, 1984, about 26 months after issuance of the low power license. Startup testing is expected to be completed in April 1985. It is desirable to complete low power and power ascension testing before updating the FSAR so that design modifications found necessary by testing can be incorporated and so that licensees' engineering personnel who are heavily involved in the support of startup testing and resultant plant modifications can be used in preparing and reviewing the updated FSAR. Thus, for Grand Gulf Unit 1, good cause has been shown for the requested extension of the date for submittal of the updated Final Safety Analysis Report. The requested extension to December 1, 1985 (8 months after startup testing is

scheduled to be completed) will allow the licensees' engineering personnel necessary and sufficient time to complete startup testing and resultant design changes before conducting the engineering review associated with the preparation of the UFSAR.

The NRC staff considered safety aspects of the requested extension to the UFSAR submittal date. During the long interval of low power and power ascension testing to date, Mississippi Power & Light Company (MP&L) has submitted four FSAR amendments and other licensing documents providing information regarding changes in plant design, plant procedures, and safety analyses. MP&L will continue to provide information and analyses needed for accurate and timely evaluation of matters of safety significance, pending submittal of the UFSAR. MP&L has also implemented a system to make controlled copies of principal design drawings available to reactor control room operators and emergency response facility staff. Thus, the granting of the requested extension will have no significant impact on plant safety.

The public interest will be served by granting the exemption since licensees can continue to use engineering personnel to support startup testing, thus, assuring completion of startup testing and start of commercial operation sooner than would be the case if engineering personnel were diverted to update the FSAR.

Based on its review, the staff concludes that issuance of this exemption will have no significant effect on plant safety. Further, this action is in the public interest and good cause has been shown to support the exemption. Therefore, an 18 month exemption from the date of compliance is acceptable.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (50 FR 5830).

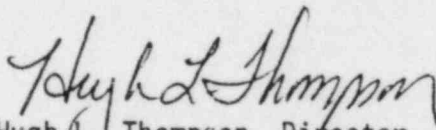
III.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR §50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby approves the following temporary exemption from compliance with the June 16, 1984, date for submitting an UFSAR:

An updated FSAR (UFSAR) containing those original pages of the FSAR that are still applicable plus new replacement pages shall be filed by December 1, 1985. This UFSAR shall bring the FSAR up to date as of a maximum of 6 months prior to the date of filing the UFSAR. The first revision of the UFSAR shall be filed no later than December 1, 1986, with subsequent revisions no less frequently than annually thereafter.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 26th day of February 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Hugh L. Thompson, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Grand Gulf - EXEMPTION

February 26, 1985

✓ Docket No. 50-416
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