



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

LOUISIANA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-382

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.24 to Louisiana Power and Light Company (the applicant). The applicant has applied for a facility operating license for operation of the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit No. 3 (the facility). This facility is a pressurized water reactor located in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption from 10 CFR 70.24 would allow irradiated or unirradiated fuel assemblies to be handled and stored in the Waterford 3 fuel handling building without having two criticality monitoring systems operable, provided that no more than one fuel assembly is outside an approved shipping container, storage rack, or fuel transfer tube at any time.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed to permit fueling and refueling operations at Waterford 3 to be conducted without installing the criticality detection systems specified by 10 CFR 70.24.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: There are no environmental impacts of the proposed action. Criticality will be precluded by the use of geometric spacing in storing new and spent fuel storage racks and the restriction that no more than one fuel assembly shall be authorized to be outside an approved shipping container, storage rack or the fuel transfer tube at any one time. This is an acceptable alternative to redundant criticality detection systems. Since the proposed change does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents nor cause any significant occupational exposures, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves systems located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: We have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption. The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of the plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the operation of Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit No. 3" dated September 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

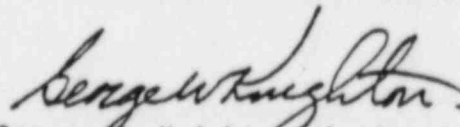
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude 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 Safety Evaluation Report of the staff's review of the applicant's application, as amended, for a Materials License, dated February 9, 1983, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. and at the University of New Orleans Library, Louisiana Collection, Lakefront, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 12th day of December, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George W. Knighton, Acting Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing