

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364

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 Footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR 20 to Alabama Power Company (the licensee), for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located near the City of Dothan, Alabama.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would relax the requirement in Footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR 20 which states, "No allowance is to be made for the use of sorbents against radioactive gases or vapor." The exemption would allow the use of a radioiodine protection factor of 50 for certain respiratory protection canisters used by workers at Alabama Power Company's Farley 1 & 2 facilities. The staff's technical evaluation of this request will be published in a safety evaluation for the use of a radioiodine protection factor for GMR-1 Canisters.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated January 13, 1984, as supplemented by letters dated February 10 and 13, March 5 and May 8, 1984.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request are potential means to reduce occupational exposure to radiation for some tasks at the Farley facilities.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will most likely reduce the work effort and occupational exposure for some tasks at the Farley facilities. As stated in the staff's preliminary Safety Evaluation Report:

The utilization of air purifying respirators in lieu of air-supplied or self-contained apparatuses, where possible, can result in person-rem reductions of from 25% to 50% for several major tasks. The light weight, less cumbersome air purifying respirators (i.e., GMR-I canisters) provide increased comfort and mobility in most cases, resulting in increased worker efficiency and decreased time on-the-job. The licensee has provided a task analysis which shows that the use of GMR-1 canisters at Farley would result in significant dose saving and would be an effective ALARA ("as low as is reasonably achievable") measure.

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

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

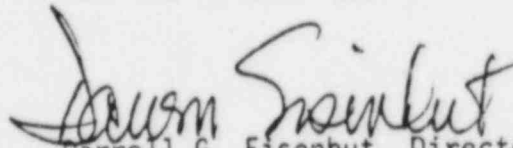
Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted with an NRC contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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, 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 application for the exemption dated January 13, 1984, and supplements dated February 10 and 13, March 5 and May 8, 1984, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room at 212 Burdeshaw Street, Dothan, Alabama 36301.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Regulations

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 2nd day of October 1984



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

October 11, 1984

Docket Nos. 50-348
and 50-364

Mr. R. P. McDonald
Senior Vice President
Alabama Power Company
Post Office Box 2641
Birmingham, Alabama 35291

Dear Mr. McDonald:

SUBJECT: NUREG-0737 ITEM II.B.3. POST ACCIDENT SAMPLING SYSTEM
MODIFICATIONS

NUREG-0737 Item II.B.3 required licensees to improve the capability of the plant Post Accident Sampling System to determine the extent of core degradation following a severe reactor accident. In our letter dated December 15, 1983, we transmitted a Safety Evaluation concluding that you met nine of eleven criteria contained in Item II.B.3 and requesting additional information concerning the two outstanding criteria.

We have completed our review of your responses to this request provided in letters dated February 17, July 11 and August 31, 1984. Our Safety Evaluation is enclosed. We now find that ten of eleven criteria are met, and that your proposed guideline for estimating the degree of core damage is acceptable on an interim basis. The final procedure should be provided for our review by December 31, 1984. A plant specific evaluation will be completed upon receipt of your final procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steven A. Yarga".

Steven A. Yarga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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A/S

Mr. R. P. McDonald
Alabama Power Company

Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

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