

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGEORGIA POWER COMPANY, et al.DOCKET NO. 50-424ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the schedular requirements of Section 50.71(e)(3)(i) to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Georgia Power Company, et al. (the licensee) for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1 located on the licensee's site in Burke County, Georgia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to submit an updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for Unit 1 of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) within 24 months of the issuance of the operating license. A low power operating license was issued for VEGP Unit 1 on January 16, 1987. By letter dated January 15, 1988, the licensee requested an exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e), which would defer submittal of the UFSAR for VEGP Unit 1 until one year following issuance of a full power operating license for VEGP Unit 2 on the basis that the present Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) applies to both units. The FSAR has been updated on May 6, 1987, and August 31, 1987, and will continue to be updated to support the licensing of VEGP Unit 2 and to provide updated information on VEGP Unit 1.

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The Need for the Proposed Action: 10 CFR Part 50.34 requires that, until VEGP Unit 2 receives an operating license, the information contained in the FSAR docketed with the operating license application be maintained current. Therefore, if an extension to the submittal date for the UFSAR is not granted, the licensee would be required to maintain current both the present FSAR as well as the UFSAR until VEGP Unit 2 is licensed. Maintaining two versions of the same document for the two VEGP units would cause a hardship, could lead to ambiguities and confusion and would serve no useful purpose if the existing FSAR is maintained up-to-date until VEGP Unit 2 is licensed. Therefore, an extension is needed to eliminate the hardship of maintaining two versions of the same document.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the required date for submitting the UFSAR and does not affect plant operation or the risk of facility accidents. Accordingly, the exemption will not increase the probability or consequences of any dominant reactor accident sequence and will not otherwise affect any other radiological impact associated with the facility. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Because the staff has concluded that there is no significant environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to this exemption will have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operations.

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 the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2" dated March 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

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 request for the exemption dated January 15, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D.C., and at the Burke County Library, 4th Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of March 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:


Lawrence P. Crocker, Acting Director
Project Directorate 11-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II



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March 21, 1988

DOCKET NO. 50-424

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rules and Procedures Branch
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: **Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1 (Georgia Power Company, et al.)**

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is enclosed for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

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- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s); Time for Submission of Views on Antitrust Matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License.
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
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- Order.
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

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