

for the carrying on, by organizations or individuals in the United States and foreign countries, including other government agencies of the United States and of foreign countries, of such scientific or engineering activities as the Foundation deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, and, at the request of the Secretary of Defense, specific scientific or engineering activities in connection with matters relating to international cooperation or national security, and, when deemed appropriate by the Foundation, such contracts or other arrangements or modifications thereof, may be entered into without legal consideration, without performance or other bonds and without regard to section 5 of title 41, U.S.C.

Use of the Information: Request for Proposals (RFP) is used to competitively solicit proposals in response to NSF need for services. Impact will be on those individuals or organizations who elect to submit proposals in response to the RFP. Information gathered will be evaluated in light of NSF procurement requirements to determine who will be awarded a contract.

Estimate of Burden: The Foundation estimates that, on average, 558 hours per respondent will be required to complete the RFP.

Respondents: Individuals; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; Federal government; state, local, or tribal governments.

Estimate Number of Responses: 75.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 41,580 hours.

Dated: March 13, 2000.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-302]

Florida Power Corporation et al. (Crystal River Unit 3); Exemption

I

Florida Power Corporation et al. (FPC or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-72, which authorizes the operation of Crystal River Unit 3 (CR-3). The license states that the licensee is subject to all the rules, regulations, and orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized-water reactor at the licensee's site located in Citrus County, Florida.

II

Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Part 70, Section 70.51, "Material balance, inventory, and records requirements," in sub-section (c) states that "Each licensee who is authorized to possess at any one time special nuclear material in a quantity exceeding one effective kilogram of special nuclear material shall establish, maintain, and follow written material control and accounting procedures that are sufficient to enable the licensee to account for the special nuclear material in the licensee's possession under license." Sub-section (d) states that "Except as required by paragraph (e) of this section, each licensee who is authorized to possess at any one time and location special nuclear material in a quantity totaling more than 350 grams of contained uranium-235, uranium-233, or plutonium, or any combination thereof, shall conduct a physical inventory of all special nuclear material in his possession under license at intervals not to exceed twelve months."

By letter dated July 14, 1999, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 70.51(d) that requires a 12-month physical inventory of the fuel in the spent fuel pool (SFP) due to the positioning of missile shields over the pool. The proposed exemption would allow the physical inventory of the special nuclear material (SNM) located in the CR-3 SFP to be performed each refueling outage, when the missile shields are removed for fuel movement, without having to perform physical inventories between outages if the missile shields have not been removed for other reasons. In order to perform the physical inventory, the licensee must remove four of the missile shields, which weigh approximately 6200 pounds each. Approximately two-man weeks of labor are required to perform the physical inventory if shield removal and re-installation are necessary. An exemption from this requirement would reduce the burden associated with the physical inventories as well as the personal safety risks associated with movement of the missile shields.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 70.14, "Specific exemptions," the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the

common defense and security and are otherwise in the public interest.

The underlying purpose of the physical inventory required by 10 CFR 70.51(d) is to verify that the material control and accounting procedures are sufficient to enable the licensee to account for the SNM in the licensee's possession under license. The CR-3 SFP has missile shields installed directly over the SFP to provide protection from tornado generated missiles. These shields are required to be installed at all times except when performing activities associated with handling fuel or pool maintenance. The missile shields weigh approximately 6200 pounds each and each is secured in place by four bolts. Movement of the missile shields requires the use of shield-handling devices and auxiliary building cranes.

The missile shields provide a physical barrier over the entire SFP, preventing access to the fuel in the SFP without first removing the shields. In addition, when the missile shields are in place, the Fuel Handling Bridge is immobilized. Thus, the missile shields serve to restrict access to the fuel in the SFP and protect the SNM from inadvertent and unauthorized movements or damage. Therefore, while the missile shields are installed, the inventory of SNM in the SFP cannot change.

Removal and installation of the SFP missile shields are administratively controlled by Refueling Procedure FP-434, "Spent Fuel Pool Missile Shields." Prior to movement of any missile shield, the Nuclear Shift Manager must be notified. Thus, required adherence to the refueling procedures will control access to the SFP by controlling movement of the missile shields.

Instead of performing the physical inventory of SNM in the SFP every 12 months, FPC will perform a physical inventory of the SFP within 90 days of removing the missile shields over the fuel in the SFP, if a physical inventory has not been performed within the preceding 12 months. This will allow the physical inventory to be performed each refueling outage without having to remove the SFP missile shields solely to perform physical inventories between outages.

Based on the above, the staff finds that an exemption from the requirement to perform a physical inventory of the SNM in the SFP every 12 months is acceptable, in that the missile shields, in conjunction with the administrative controls governing their movement, ensure proper accountability of the SNM in the SFP between periods when the shields are removed.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative measures for physical inventories of SNM in the CR-3 spent fuel pool continue to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 70.51 when the missile shields, which represent a physical barrier, are in place. A specific exemption is granted to the requirements in 10 CFR 70.51(d) for conducting a twelve-month physical inventory of SNM located in the CR-3 spent fuel pool.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that the proposed change: (1) is authorized by law; (2) will not endanger life or property; (3) will not endanger the common defense and security; and (4) is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Florida Power Corporation the following exemption:

The Florida Power Corporation, et al., is exempt from the requirements of 10 CFR 70.51(d) with respect to performing a physical inventory of the special nuclear material in the Crystal River Unit 3 spent fuel pool every 12 months. A physical inventory of the special nuclear material in the spent fuel pool will be conducted within 90 days of removal of the missile shields over the fuel in the spent fuel pool, if a physical inventory has not been performed within the preceding 12 months. This exemption only applies to the special nuclear material located in the Crystal River Unit 3 spent fuel pool.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (65 FR 12592).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 9th day of March 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-400]

Carolina Power & Light Company; Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-

63, issued to Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L, the licensee), for operation of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1, (HNP) located in Wake and Chatham Counties, North Carolina.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action is a one time exemption from the requirements of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c regarding conduct of a full participation exercise of the onsite and offsite emergency plans every 2 years. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would reschedule the exercise originally scheduled for September 21, 1999, and complete the onsite and offsite exercise requirements in two parts. The licensee would use the onsite exercise conducted on January 11, 2000, without the participation of the State of North Carolina and local government response agencies, to meet the onsite requirement. The offsite portion of the exercise would be conducted on June 27, 2000, with the participation of the State of North Carolina and local government response agencies.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for an exemption dated December 7, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action

10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c requires each licensee at each site to conduct an exercise of its onsite and offsite emergency plan every 2 years. Federal agencies (the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the onsite exercise portion and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the offsite exercise portion) observe these exercises and evaluate the performance of the licensee, State and local authorities having a role under the emergency plan.

The licensee had initially planned to conduct an exercise of its onsite and offsite emergency plan on September 21, 1999, within the required 2-year required interval. However, due to the significant impact and damage from hurricane "Floyd," the State of North Carolina and the local emergency response agencies were occupied with responding to the natural disaster and were unable to participate in and could not support the exercise.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action

involves an administrative activity (a scheduler change in conducting an exercise) unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. 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 Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on February 22, 2000, the staff consulted with the North Carolina State official, Mr. Johnny James of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments. In addition, by letter dated January 19, 2000, from Ms. Vanessa Quinn, the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicated support for rescheduling the exercise.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of 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.