participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1–(800) 248–5100 (in Missouri 1–(800) 342–6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to John F. Stolz, Director, Project Directorate I–2, petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this **Federal Register** notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and to Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esquire, Winston and Strawn, 1400 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005–3502, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)–(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated April 25, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Salem Free Public Library, 112 West Broadway, Salem, New Jersey 08079.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May, 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Leonard N. Olshan,

Project Manager, Project Directorate I–2, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97–12596 Filed 5–13–97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–302]

Florida Power Corporation; Crystal River Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 3; Exemption

I

Florida Power Corporation (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR–72, which authorizes operation of the Crystal River Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 3. The license provides, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility is of a pressurized water reactor type and is located in Citrus County, Florida.

II

Title 10 CFR 73.55, ''Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage,'' paragraph (a), in part, states that ''The licensee shall establish and maintain an onsite physical protection system and security organization which will have as its objective to provide high assurance that activities involving special nuclear material are not inimical to the common defense and security and do not constitute an unreasonable risk to the public health and safety.''

10 CFR 73.55(d), ''Access Requirements,'' paragraph (1), specifies that ''The licensee shall control all points of personnel and vehicle access into a protected area.'' 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) requires that ''A numbered picture badge identification system shall be used for all individuals who are authorized access to protected areas without escort.'' 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) also states that an individual not employed by the licensee (i.e., contractors) may be authorized access to protected areas without escort provided the individual ''receives a picture badge upon entrance into the protected area which must be returned upon exit from the protected area * * *.''

The licensee proposed to implement an alternative unescorted access control system which would eliminate the need to issue and retrieve badges at each entrance/exit location and would allow all individuals with unescorted access to keep their badge with them when departing the site.

An exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) is required to allow contractors who have unescorted access to take their badges offsite instead of returning them when exiting the site.

By letter dated June 22, 1995, as supplemented November 22, 1995 and January 31, 1996, the licensee submitted its exemption request for this purpose.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, ''Specific exemptions,'' the Commission may, upon application of any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions 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. Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the Commission may authorize a licensee to provide alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage provided the licensee demonstrates that the alternative measures have ''the same high assurance objective'' and meet ''the general performance requirements'' of the regulation, and ''the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent'' to that which would be provided by the regulation.

Currently, unescorted access into the protected areas of Crystal River Unit 3 is controlled through the use of a photograph on a badge and a separate keycard (hereafter, these are referred to as badge). The security officers at each entrance station use the photograph on the badge to visually identify the individual requesting access. The badges for both licensee employees and contract personnel, who have been granted unescorted access, are issued upon entrance at each entrance/exit location and are returned upon exit. The badges are stored and are retrievable at each entrance/exit location. In accordance with 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5), contractors are not allowed to take badges offsite. In accordance with the CR3 physical security plan, neither licensee employees nor contractors are allowed to take badges offsite.

Under the proposed system, each individual who is authorized for unescorted entry into protected areas would have the physical characteristics of their hand (hand geometry) registered with their badge number in the access control computer system. When an individual enters the badge into the card reader and places the hand on the measuring surface, the system would record the individual's hand image. The unique characteristics of the extracted hand image would be compared with the previously stored template in the access control computer system to verify authorization for entry. Individuals, including licensee employees and contractors, would be allowed to keep their badges with them when they depart the site and thus eliminate the process to issue, retrieve and store badges at the entrance stations to the plants. Badges do not carry any information other than a unique identification number. All other access processes, including search function capability, would remain the same. This system would not be used for persons requiring escorted access, i.e. visitors.

Based on a Sandia report entitled, ''A Performance Evaluation of Biometric Identification Devices'' (SAND91—0276 UC—906 Unlimited Release, printed June 1991), and on its experience with the current photo-identification system, the licensee demonstrated that the false-acceptance rate for the hand geometry system will be better than is achieved by the current system. The biometric system has been in use for a number of years at several sensitive Department of Energy facilities. The licensee will implement a process for testing the proposed system to ensure continued overall level of performance equivalent to that specified in the regulation. The CR3 Physical Security Plan will be revised to include implementation and testing of the hand geometry access control system and to allow licensee employees and contractors to take their badges offsite.

The licensee will control all points of personnel access into a protected area under the observation of security personnel through the use of a badge and verification of hand geometry. A numbered picture badge identification system will continue to be used for all individuals who are authorized unescorted access to protected areas. Badges will continue to be displayed by all individuals while inside the protected area.

Since both the badge and hand geometry would be necessary for access into the protected area, the proposed system would provide for a positive verification process and potential loss of a badge by an individual, as a result of taking the badge offsite, would not enable an unauthorized entry into protected areas.

IV

For the foregoing reasons, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed alternative measures for protection against radiological sabotage meet ''the same high assurance objective,'' and ''the general performance requirements'' of the regulation and that ''the overall level of system performance provides protection against radiological sabotage equivalent'' to that which would be provided by the regulation.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Florida Power Corporation an exemption from those requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(d)(5) relating to the returning of picture badges upon exit from the protected area such that individuals not employed by the licensee (i.e., contractors, who are authorized unescorted access into the protected area) can take their badges offsite provided that the licensee implements a process testing of the proposed system and revise the CR3 Physical Security Plan as described in section III above.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact (62 FR 24982).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97–12591 Filed 5–13–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Governmentwide Grants Management Requirements

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Proposed Revision of OMB Circulars A–21, A–87, A–102, A–110 and A–122.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes to revise OMB Circulars A–21, ''Cost Principles for Educational Institutions,'' A–87, ''Cost Principles for State and Local Governments,'' A–102, ''Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments,'' A–110, ''Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations,'' and A–122, ''Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations,'' to provide a conditional exemption from OMB's grants management requirements and a conditional class deviation from the agencies' Grants Management Common Rule for certain Federal grant programs with statutorily-authorized consolidated planning and consolidated administrative funding, that are identified by a Federal agency and approved by the head of the Executive department or establishment. A recompiled Circular A–122 is also provided.

DATES: All comments on this proposal should be in writing and must be received by July 14, 1997. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to Grants Management Exemption Docket, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, Room 6025 New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Electronic mail (E-mail) comments may be submitted via the Internet to kahlow__b@a1.eop.gov. Please include the full body of E-mail comments in the text of the message and not as an attachment. Please include the name, title, organization, postal address, and E-mail address in the text of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara F. Kahlow, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget, (202) 395–3053. The text of this proposed revision and of the current OMB Circulars A–21, A–87, A–102, and A–110 are available electronically on the OMB Home Page at http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/omb. The text of a fully recompiled Circular A–122 is appended to this proposal and will also be available electronically on the OMB Home Page. The current version of OMB Circulars A–21, A–87, A–102, and A–110 are available in paper format by contacting the OMB Publications Office at (202) 395–7332.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administration believes in greater