

May 19, 2000

Mr. C. Lance Terry
Senior Vice President & Principal Nuclear Officer
TXU Electric
Attn: Regulatory Affairs Department
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

SUBJECT: COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION UNITS 1 AND 2 - PUBLIC
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSES (TAC NOS. MA8946 AND MA8947)

Dear Mr. Terry:

The enclosed announcement was forwarded to the the Fort Worth Star Telegram and the Dallas Morning News for publication. This announcement relates to your application dated May 12, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated May 19, 2000, for amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89. The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification 3.7.3, Conditions A and B, to extend the Completion Times for one or more feedwater isolation valves (FIV) inoperable from four hours to 24 hours if, within four hours, the respective feedwater control valves (FCVs) and the FCV bypass valves in the same flowpath are verified to be capable of performing the feedwater isolation function. A footnote is added that indicates that the extension of the Completion Time to 24 to hours is only applicable for repair of the FIV hydraulic system through fuel cycle 8 for Unit 1 and fuel cycle 5 for Unit 2.

A separate notice will be published later in the *Federal Register* concerning the revision to the Feedwater Isolation Valves (FIV) and Associated Bypass Valves Section 3.7.3 of the Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

Enclosure: Public Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AT THE COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received an application dated May 12, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated May 19, 2000, from TXU Electric (the licensee), for an exigent amendment to the operating licenses for Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (CPSES). The facility is located in Somervell County, approximately 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Texas.

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification 3.7.3, Conditions A and B, to extend the Completion Times for one or more feedwater isolation valves (FIVs) inoperable from four hours to 24 hours if, within four hours, the respective feedwater control valves (FCVs) and the FCV bypass valves in the same flowpath are verified to be capable of performing the feedwater isolation function. A footnote is added that indicates that the extension of the Completion Time to 24 hours is only applicable for repair of the FIV hydraulic system through fuel cycle 8 for Unit 1 and fuel cycle 5 for Unit 2.

Based on the root cause analysis performed by the licensee, in conjunction with the repair of the hydraulic pump for FIV 1-03, it is probable that each of the CPSES FIV hydraulic pumps contain seals made from a material that is not in accordance with vendor drawings and that is not compatible with the hydraulic fluid. Currently, one of these pumps (FIV 1-04) is exhibiting early symptoms of seal degradation; however, the time to failure of the hydraulic pump cannot be accurately predicted. A sudden failure of a seal could cause the affected FIV to close, which would likely result in a reactor trip. TXU Electric believes that it is prudent to repair the pump prior to the summer load demand when the potential adverse impact to the public from a plant shutdown is greater. The proposed change would extend the Completion Time for one or more FIVs inoperable to allow sufficient time to repair the FIV hydraulic pump.

The licensee and the NRC staff have evaluated this proposed change with regard to the determination of whether or not a significant hazards consideration is involved. Operation of CPSES, in accordance with the proposed amendments will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

"The proposed change extends the Completion Time for one or more Feedwater Isolation Valves (FIV) inoperable from [four] hours to 24 hours for repair of FIV hydraulic system, if the Feedwater Control Valve (FCV) and associated bypass valve in the same flowpath has been verified to be available to perform feedwater isolation. Extending the Completion Time is not an accident initiator and thus does not change the probability that an accident will occur. However, it could potentially affect the consequences of an accident if an accident occurred during the extended unavailability of the inoperable FIV. The increase in time that the FIV is unavailable is small and the probability of an event occurring during this time period, which would require isolation of the MFW [main feedwater] flow paths, is low. Moreover, the redundancy provided by the FCVs, which have the same actuation signals and closure time requirements as the FIVs, provides adequate assurance that automatic feedwater isolation will occur if required.

Therefore, the proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated."

The proposed amendment will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed.

"Closure of the FIVs is required to mitigate the consequences of a Main Steam Line Break and Main Feedwater Line Break accidents. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated."

The proposed amendment will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

"The proposed change does not change any Technical Specification Limit or accident analysis assumption. Therefore it does not involve a reduction in a margin of safety."

Following an initial review of this application, the requested amendment has been evaluated against the standards in 10 CFR 50.92 and the NRC staff has made a proposed (preliminary) determination that the requested amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The changes do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of

any accident previously considered, nor create the possibility of an accident of a different kind, nor significantly decrease any margin of safety.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendment involves no significant hazards consideration becomes final, the staff will issue the amendment without first offering an opportunity for a prior public hearing. An opportunity for a hearing will be published in the *Federal Register*.

If the staff decides in its final determination that the amendment does involve a significant hazards consideration, a notice of opportunity for a prior hearing will be published in the *Federal Register* and, if a hearing is granted, it will be held before the amendment is issued.

Comments on the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration may be (1) telephoned to Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section IV-1, Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, by collect call to 301-415-1010, or by facsimile to 301-415-7025; (2) e-mailed to rag@nrc.gov; or (3) submitted in writing to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. All comments received by close of business on May 24, 2000, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., on Federal workdays, will be considered in reaching a final determination. A copy of the application may be examined electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>) and at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, Gelman Building, NW., Washington, DC 20555.