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PG&E Letter DCL-00-082

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80  
Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82  
Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2  
Licensee Amendment Request 00-03  
Emergency Request for Delay in Implementation of Improved Technical  
Specifications

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

Enclosed is an application for amendment to Facility Operating License (OL) Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82 for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) Units 1 and 2, respectively. This license amendment request (LAR) would allow a delay in implementation of the Improved Technical Specification (ITS) to June 30, 2000. License Amendments 135 and 135, issued May 28, 1999 for Units 1 and 2, respectively, require that the ITS be implemented by May 31, 2000. Specifically, OL Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82, Appendix D, "Additional Conditions," would be revised to indicate that Amendment 135 and 135, respectively, shall be implemented by June 30, 2000. The affected license conditions involve (1) the relocation of current Technical Specification (CTS) requirements into licensee controlled documents during the implementation of the improved TS, and (2) the schedule for first performance of new and revised surveillance requirements for the ITS. The delay in the implementation date is required to avoid restarting Unit 1 during the transition between CTS and ITS.

On May 15, 2000, Unit 1 was shutdown when an electrical short and fire occurred in the 12 kV bus room inside the Unit 1 turbine building, damaging the 4 kV and 12 kV bus ducts. Repairs are ongoing, and it is expected that Unit 1 will restart on or about the date the ITS are required to be implemented. Although final preparations for implementation of ITS are continuing, significant plant resources are currently focused on repairing the damage and preparing the unit for return to power. A delay in implementation would avoid a potential restart with some mode transitions being made under the CTS, and later mode transitions made under the ITS. It would also allow plant staff to refocus on implementation of the ITS following the outage.

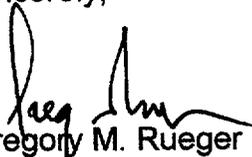
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Had the event not occurred, PG&E would have implemented the ITS on May 31, 2000.

Since the requested implementation delay is due to an unplanned shutdown of Unit 1 and could have not been anticipated, PG&E requests NRC review and approval of the proposed amendments on an emergency basis to allow implementation of the ITS following restart of DCP Unit 1 by June 30, 2000.

A description of the proposed change, and the bases for it and the emergency nature of the request, is provided in Enclosure A. The change does not involve a significant hazards consideration, as defined in 10 CFR 50.92, or an unreviewed environmental question. Further, there is reasonable assurance that the proposed change will not adversely affect the health and safety of the public. PG&E requests approval of this LAR by May 26, 2000.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Rueger

cc: Edgar Bailey, DHS  
Steven D. Bloom  
Ellis W. Merschoff  
David Proulx  
Diablo Distribution

Enclosures



**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE IMPROVED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

**A. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT REQUEST**

This License Amendment Request (LAR) would allow delay in implementation of the Improved Technical Specification (ITS) to June 30, 2000. License Amendments (LA) 135 and 135, issued May 28, 1999, for Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP), Units 1 and 2, respectively, require that the ITS be implemented by May 31, 2000.

Specifically, OL Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82, Appendix D, "Additional Conditions," would be revised to require that LAs 135 and 135, respectively, be implemented by June 30, 2000. The affected license conditions involve (1) the relocation of current Technical Specification (CTS) requirements into licensee controlled documents during the implementation of the ITS, and (2) the schedule for first performance of new and revised surveillance requirements for the ITS.

Changes to the OL are indicated in the marked up copies of OL Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82 included in Enclosures B and C, respectively.

**B. BACKGROUND**

Amendments 135 and 135, issued May 28, 1999, for DCPP Units 1 and 2, respectively, converts the CTS for DCPP to the ITS. The ITS are based on NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications (STS), Westinghouse Plants," Revision 1, dated April 1995, the CTS, and the plant licensing basis. LAs 135 and 135 require that the ITS be implemented by May 31, 2000.

On May 15, 2000, Unit 1 shutdown when an electrical short and fire occurred in the 12 kV bus room inside the Unit 1 turbine building, damaging the 4 kV and 12 kV bus ducts. Repairs are in progress, and it is expected that the unit will restart on or about the date the ITS are required to be implemented. Although final preparations for implementation of ITS are continuing, significant plant resources are currently focused on repairing the damage and preparing the unit for return to service.

**C. JUSTIFICATION AND BASIS FOR THE EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES**

The current approved implementation date for ITS of May 31, 2000, was based on implementing the ITS after the refueling outages were completed in 1999, but several months before the scheduled Fall 2000 Unit 1 refueling outage.

The delay is necessary to avoid implementation of the ITS during or immediately following the restart of Unit 1 from the outage caused by an electrical short and fire on May 15, 2000. Unit 1 is scheduled to restart on or about the date the ITS are required to be implemented. The delay would allow plant staff to refocus on implementation of the ITS following the outage, and would preclude problems that might arise during the mode transitions for the unit startup and the return to power. For example, the master surveillance scheduling database cannot be uploaded until just before ITS implementation since it overrides the current database. If it is uploaded during the Unit 1 startup, surveillance planning will be affected. Also, compliance with the both the CTS and ITS would be complicated if part of the mode transitions for the startup and return to power are made under the CTS and part under the ITS. For some procedures, new revisions would need to be implemented during the mode transitions. Had the event not occurred, PG&E would have implemented the ITS on May 31, 2000.

Based on the fact that the current outage was not planned and could not have been anticipated, and failure to process this LAR could result in a delay in the return to power of Unit 1 until after ITS implementation, emergency conditions exist as provided for in 10 CFR 50.91(a)(5). PG&E could not have foreseen this problem, and has not failed to make timely application for this amendment.

#### D. SAFETY EVALUATION

This change is administrative in nature in that it simply delays implementation of the ITS to June 30, 2000. Until the ITS are implemented, the CTS will remain in effect and the units will continue to be operated in accordance with the requirements of the NRC approved CTS under which the plant is operating today.

This change does not affect plant operation, or physically alter or change the function of any structures, systems, or components required to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident.

Based on the above, PG&E believes there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be adversely affected by the proposed change.

#### E. NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS EVALUATION

PG&E has evaluated the no significant hazards considerations (NSHC) involved with the proposed amendment, focusing on the three standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92(c) as quoted below:

*"The Commission may make a final determination, pursuant to the procedures in paragraph 50.91, that a proposed amendment to an operating license for a facility licensed under paragraph 50.21(b) or paragraph 50.22 or a testing facility involves no significant hazards considerations, if operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not:*

- (1) Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or*
- (2) Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or*
- (3) Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety."*

The following evaluation is provided for the NSHC standards:

1. *Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?*

This change is administrative in nature in that it delays implementation of the improved Technical Specification (ITS) to June 30, 2000 from May 31, 2000. Until the ITS are implemented, the current Technical Specifications (CTS) will remain in effect and the units will continue to be operated in accordance with the requirements of the NRC approved CTS.

The change does not affect plant operation, or physically alter or change the function of any structures, systems, or components required to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident. In addition, it cannot initiate a transient or affect the probability of occurrence or consequences of any previously analyzed accident.

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. *Does the change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?*

Deferral of the implementation date of ITS is an administrative change. Until implementation of the ITS, the CTS will remain in effect and the units will continue to be operated in accordance with the requirements of the NRC approved CTS. The change does not affect plant operation, or physically alter or change the function of any structures, systems, or

components required to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident.

Therefore, the proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. *Does the change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?*

Deferral of the implementation date of ITS is an administrative change. Until implementation of the ITS, the CTS will remain in effect and the units will continue to be operated in accordance with the requirements of the NRC approved CTS. The change does not affect plant operation, or physically alter or change the function of any structures, systems, or components required to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident.

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

F. **NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION**

Based on the above, PG&E concludes that the change proposed by this LAR satisfies the NSHC standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c), and accordingly a no significant hazards finding is justified.

G. **ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION**

PG&E has evaluated the proposed change and determined the change does not involve: (i) a significant hazards consideration, (ii) a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluent that may be released offsite, or (iii) a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the proposed change meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), an environmental assessment of the proposed change is not required.

**MARKED-UP OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-80**

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Appendix D

Appendix D

Appendix D

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-80

Pacific Gas & Electric Company shall comply with the following conditions on the schedules given below:

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Conditions</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
120	The licensee is authorized to relocate certain technical specification requirements to the equipment control guidelines (ECGs) as referenced in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report. Implementation of these amendments shall include relocation of these technical specification requirements to the ECGs as described the licensee's application dated October 4, 1995, as supplemented by letters dated July 17, 1996, August 20, 1996, and June 2, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's safety evaluation dated February 3, 1998.	The amendment shall be implemented within 90 days of its issuance.
135	This amendment authorizes the relocation of certain Technical Specification requirements to licensee-controlled documents. Implementation of this amendment shall include the relocation of these Technical Specification requirements to the appropriate documents, as described in Table LG of Details Relocated from Current Technical Specifications, Table R of Relocated Current Technical Specifications, Table LS of Less Restrictive Changes to Current Technical Specifications, and Table A of Administrative Changes to Current Technical Specifications that are attached to the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation enclosed with this amendment.	The amendment shall be implemented by <u>May 31</u> , 2000. <i>June 30</i>

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Conditions</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
135	<p>The schedule for the performance of new and revised Surveillance Requirements (SRs) shall be as follows:</p> <p>For SRs that are new in this amendment, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that begins on the date of implementation of this amendment.</p> <p>For SRs that existed prior to this amendment whose intervals of performance are being reduced, the first reduced surveillance interval begins upon completion of the first surveillance performed after implementation of this amendment.</p> <p>For SRs that existed prior to this amendment that have modified acceptance criteria, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that began on the date the surveillance was last performed prior to the implementation of this amendment.</p> <p>For SRs that existed prior to this amendment whose intervals of performance are being extended, the first extended surveillance interval begins upon completion of the last surveillance performed prior to implementation of this amendment.</p>	<p>The amendment shall be implemented by <del>May 31</del>, 2000. June 30</p>

**MARKED-UP OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-82**

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ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-82

Pacific Gas & Electric Company shall comply with the following conditions on the schedules given below:

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Additional Conditions</u>	<u>Implementation Date</u>
118	The licensee is authorized to relocate certain technical specifications requirements to the equipment control guidelines (ECGs) as referenced in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report. Implementation of these amendments shall include relocation of these technical specification requirements to the ECGs as described the licensee's application dated October 4, 1995, as supplemented by letters dated July 17, 1996, August 20, 1996, and June 2, 1997, and evaluated in the staff's safety evaluation dated February 3, 1998.	The amendment shall be implemented within 90 days of its issuance.
135	This amendment authorizes the relocation of certain Technical Specification requirements to licensee-controlled documents. Implementation of this amendment shall include the relocation of these Technical Specification requirements to the appropriate documents, as described in Table LG of Details Relocated from Current Technical Specifications, Table R of Relocated Current Technical Specifications, Table LS of Less Restrictive Changes to Current Technical Specifications, and Table A of Administrative changes to Current Technical specifications that are attached to the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation enclosed with this amendment.	The amendment shall be implemented by <del>May 31</del> 2000. June 30

Amendment  
Number

Additional Conditions

Implementation  
Date

135

The schedule for the performance of new and revised Surveillance Requirements (SRs) shall be as follows:

The amendment shall be implemented by

May 31, 2000.

June 30

For SRs that are new in this amendment, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that begins on the date of implementation of this amendment.

For SRs that existed prior to this amendment whose intervals of performance are being reduced, the first reduced surveillance interval begins upon completion of the first surveillance performed after implementation of this amendment.

For SRs that existed prior to this amendment that have modified acceptance criteria, the first performance is due at the end of the first surveillance interval that began on the date the surveillance was last performed prior to the implementation of this amendment.

For SRs that existed prior to this amendment whose intervals of performance are being extended, the first extended surveillance interval begins upon completion of the last surveillance performed prior to implementation of this amendment.