



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 16 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-50

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-289

Introduction

By letter dated April 15, 1976, Metropolitan Edison Company (the licensee) proposed a license amendment to the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 Operating License No. DPR-50 to permit the use of type "C" tests, as defined in 10 CFR 50 Appendix J, to determine the leakage of valves served by the Fluid Block System. Although this change was submitted by the licensee as Amendment No. 1 to his previous Change Request No. 22, dated October 29, 1975, which is still under our generic review, the licensee requested that his change proposed April 15, 1976, be acted upon in a timely manner. This change will allow the licensee the option of local leakage testing of the valves, served by the Fluid Block System, with air/nitrogen when excessive maintenance is required to satisfy the Fluid Block System inventory requirement.

Evaluation

Appendix J to 10 CFR 50 requires, in part, that all isolation valves be locally leak tested with air (Type C test), except for those valves which are sealed with the fluid from a seal system. Seal systems must be leak tested to demonstrate a sufficient fluid inventory to assure the sealing function for at least thirty (30) days if credit is to be taken for the use of the seal system. This exception recognizes that seal systems can effectively eliminate the leakage through specific isolation valves, and therefore the leakage through these valves need not be considered when determining a combined local leakage rate.

The proposed change to the Technical Specifications for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station would, as alternatives, allow the licensee to either (a) leak test the Fluid Block System (seal water system), and demonstrate a thirty day fluid inventory, or (b) locally leak test all of the isolation valves served by the Fluid Block System with air/nitrogen and demonstrate that the combined local leakage, including the leakage of the isolation valves served by the Fluid Block System, is below the allowable limit.

The proposed change to the Technical Specifications does not change the design basis for containment leakage. The only effect of the proposed amendment is to require the licensee to include the leakage of isolation valves served by the Fluid Block System in determining the combined local leakage rate when credit is not taken for the Fluid Block System. The proposed change to the Technical Specifications for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station does not increase either the probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident. Since the allowable leakage limits, both integrated (.75La) and local (.6La), have not been changed, the consequences of an accident remain unchanged from those evaluated in the Final Safety Analysis Report. In addition type "C" testing of valves served by the Fluid Block System is in agreement with the requirements of Appendix J. Therefore, we find the Technical Specification revision acceptable.

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR 851.5(d)(4) that an environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the change does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: **MAY 12 1978**