

January 13, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-327/328

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Mr. S. A. White
 Manager of Nuclear Power
 Tennessee Valley Authority
 6N 38A Lookout Place
 1101 Market Street
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

Dear Mr. White:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY
 OPERATING LICENSES AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
 CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

Re: Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

The Commission has forwarded the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination" to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

This notice relates to your application dated January 11, 1988, which requests that the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications be modified to allow up to 1000 cubic feet per minute (cfm) intake of fresh air during operation of the control room emergency ventilation system rather than the 200 cfm currently required.

Sincerely,
 Original signed by:
 Jack N. Donohew, Jr. for

Gary G. Zech, Assistant Director
 for Projects
 TVA Projects Division
 Office of Special Projects

Enclosure:
 As stated

cc:
 w/enclosure
 See next page

Handwritten signature and date: 1/13/88

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OGC
1/188

TVA:AD/
GZech
1/13/88

Mr. S. A. White
Tennessee Valley Authority

Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

cc:
General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
E11 B33
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Regional Administrator, Region II
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Resident Inspector/Sequoyah NP
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Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
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Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

Mr. Richard King
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Mr. M. R. Harding
Tennessee Valley Authority
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
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Soddy Daisy, Tennessee 37379

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ATTN: Director, Bureau of
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Mr. D. L. Williams
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Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Mr. Michael H. Mobley, Director
Division of Radiological Health
T.E.R.R.A. Building
150 9th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

County Judge
Hamilton County Courthouse
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Dr. Henry Myers, Science Advisor
Committee on Interior
and Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
DOCKET NOS. 50-327 AND 50-328
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License No. DPR-77 and Facility Operating License No. DPR-79, issued to the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee), for operation of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The proposed amendments are in response to the licensee's submittal dated January 11, 1988.

The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specification (TS) surveillance requirement 4.7.7.e.3 (Units 1 and 2) to allow up to 1000 cubic feet per minute intake of fresh air to the control room during operation of the control room emergency ventilation system (CREVS).

Because of the potential for impacting the heatup of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Unit 2, the licensee has requested these proposed TS amendments be processed on an emergency basis or as expeditiously as possible. TVA has stated the proposed TS changes are a result of hardware related deficiencies which were previously unidentified. TVA has actively pursued numerous parallel paths in an attempt to meet the existing surveillance requirements. At the point where it was indicated that a TS change was required, the change package was developed with the highest priority.

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NRC has reviewed the circumstances resulting in the submittal of the proposed TS changes. It is desirable to promptly act on this change in order to assure operational and procedural continuity of the Sequoyah (SQN) heatup. Accordingly, NRC staff has determined that sufficient justification exists for consideration of these amendments on an exigent basis.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards considerations. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendments 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.

NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's proposed application and has determined that an increase in control room filtered fresh air intake from 200 cubic feet per minute (CFM) to ≤ 1000 cfm does not affect the probability of any accident previously evaluated. Rather, this change results in a very small increase in the worst case postulated control room operator dose, from 1.1 to 1.5 rem. This increase is insignificant and well below the 10 CFR 50 Appendix A, Criterion 19 limit of 5 rem. There appear to be no other affects on the consequences of any accident previous analyzed.

NRC staff has also determined that the proposed TS changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed because the function and operation of the CREVS is unchanged. The percentage of fresh air intake with respect to recirculated air is the only change proposed and, therefore, would not create a new accident.

The proposed TS changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. Although there is a very small increase in the calculated worst case postulated dose to the control room operators, the dose still remains less than one-third of the dose limit specified in 10 CFR 50 Appendix A, Criterion 19, and there are no systems, equipment, or components adversely affected.

TVA has provided the following analysis:

Operation of SQN in accordance with the proposed amendment will not:

- (1) Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. CREVS is an engineered safety features (ESF) system designed to recirculate a portion of the control room air through cleanup trains composed of high efficiency particulate attenuation (HEPA) filters and charcoal absorbers. The system also supplies a stream of fresh air to the control room to keep it pressurized relative to the outdoors and the adjacent areas of the plant. This fresh air is processed by the cleanup trains described above. This serves to minimize the inleakage of unfiltered, contaminated air into the control room. Calculations have shown that increasing the fresh air makeup flow up to 1000 cfm will not increase the postulated control room operator doses above 10 CFR 50 Appendix A limits. Increasing the makeup flow also ensures proper pressurization of the control room, minimizing any unfiltered inleakage.
- (2) Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed. Increasing the makeup flow to the control room has only minor effects on control room operator dose, and ensures adequate control room pressurization. The function and operation of CREVS is otherwise unchanged.

(3) Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. Calculations have shown that there are small changes in control room operator dose as a result of increasing the filtered makeup flow to the control room. The resultant doses, however, remain well below the limits of 10 CFR 50 Appendix A, Criterion 19. Additionally, the increased makeup flow ensures that the control room is adequately pressurized, minimizing the potential for unfiltered inleakage.

TVA has evaluated the proposed TS change and determined that it does not represent a significant hazards consideration based on criteria established in 10 CFR 50.92(c).

The staff has reviewed the licensee's no significant hazards consideration determination as discussed above and agrees with the licensee's conclusion that this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration. Therefore, the Commission proposes to determine that this change does not involve significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 15 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules and Procedures Branch, Division of Rules and Records, Office of Administration and Resources Management, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice.

Written comments may also be delivered to Room 4000, Maryland National Bank Building, 7735 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By February 16, 1988, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendments to the subject facility operating licenses and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rule of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first pre-hearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene, which must include a list of the contentions that are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendments are issued before the expiration of 30 days, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards considerations. If a hearing is requested, 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 considerations, the Commission may issue the amendments and make them effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendments.

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

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendments until the expiration of the 15-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendments before the expiration of the 15-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendments involve no significant hazards considerations. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received.

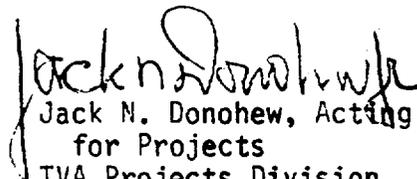
A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (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 (800) 325-6000 (in Missouri (800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Gary G. Zech, Assistant Director for Projects: 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, D.C. 20555, and to General Counsel, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, E11 B33, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

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 amendments dated January 11, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Local Public Document Room, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library, 1001 Broad Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 13th day of January 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Jack N. Donohew, Acting Assistant Director
for Projects
TVA Projects Division
Office of Special Projects

