

February 9, 1988

Docket No. 50-305

Mr. D. C. Hintz
Vice President - Nuclear Power
Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
P.O. Box 19002
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54037-9002

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Dear Mr. Hintz:

Enclosed is a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing," which is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. This notice relates to your request for amendment dated February 5, 1988.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Joseph G. Gitter, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III
Iv, V and Special Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

OFFICE: PDIII-3
SURNAME: PKreutzer
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Mr. D. C. Hintz
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

cc:
David Baker, Esquire
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Stanley LaCrosse, Chairman
Town of Carlton
Route 1
Kewaunee, Wisconsin 54216

Mr. Harold Reckelberg, Chairman
Kewaunee County Board
Kewaunee County Courthouse
Kewaunee, Wisconsin 54216

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Hill Farms State Office Building
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

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Resident Inspectors Office
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. Robert S. Cullen
Chief Engineer
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-305NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DRP-43, issued to Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, (the licensee), for operation of Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant, located in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin.

The proposed amendment would add a paragraph to the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) operating license to allow a plant modification to the steam generator upper lateral supports. Specifically, WPSC proposes to reduce the number of hydraulic snubbers on the support from four to one. The technical justification for this modification is based on 1) the elimination of dynamic effects of postulated pipe rupture in the primary reactor coolant loop from the design basis by applying leak-before-break technology as authorized by General Design Criterion (GDC) 4, 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A; 2) the high margin of safety of the modified steam generator support under revised loading conditions; and 3) the elimination of arbitrary intermediate breaks in the main steam line piping as described in the Standard Review Plan 3.6.2, Revision 2. The anticipated benefits of this modification include reduced worker radiation exposures and lower maintenance costs.

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Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, 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 request for amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that 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 licensee provided a discussion regarding the above three criteria as summarized below:

Criterion 1: It has been determined that the probability or consequences of an accident are not increased when leak-before-break technology is properly applied. Through proper application of leak-before-break technology, it has been demonstrated that advanced fracture mechanics analysis is an acceptable alternative to maintaining structures and components solely to mitigate the consequences of the dynamic effects of postulated pipe ruptures. Analysis has verified that high safety margins are maintained in the modified steam generator supports under all now postulated loading conditions, including normal loads, Design Basis Earthquake loads, pipe breaks at the branch line nozzles (Residual Heat Removal, Accumulator, and Surge line) of the main coolant loops, and terminal end pipe breaks at the main steam and feed water line nozzles. Because adequate safety factors, based on Updated Safety Analysis Report

(USAR) allowable stresses, are maintained in the modified design, neither the probability nor the consequences of an accident, previously evaluated, are increased. Finally, the Emergency Core Cooling System design basis, reactor containment and compartment design basis, equipment qualification basis, and engineered safety system response are unaffected by this change.

Criterion 2: Dynamic effects of postulated ruptures in the main coolant loop piping have been eliminated from the plant's design basis through application of leak-before-break technology as authorized by GDC-4. In the safety analysis submitted to the NRC, it was demonstrated that the snubbers to be removed from the steam generator upper lateral supports were required only to mitigate pipe rupture dynamic effects. The evaluation of the Reactor Coolant System with modified steam generator upper lateral supports shows that the support continues to have high margins of safety, which exceed USAR design basis requirements, under all licensed loading conditions excluding the main loop pipe ruptures and the main steam line arbitrary intermediate breaks.

Criterion 3: The structural evaluation of the revised steam generator upper lateral support establishes that the piping, components and supports are stressed within the allowable limits. The modification of the steam generator upper lateral supports involves no reduction in the margin of safety under any of the now postulated loading conditions.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. The Commission

will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Comments should be addressed to the Rules and Procedures Branch, Division of Rules and Records, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice.

By March 17, 1988 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license, 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. Request for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene must be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules 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 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 must 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 the 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 prehearing 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 which 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 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 request for amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice 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 amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and state comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

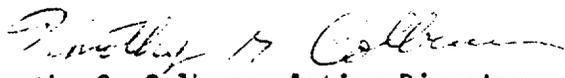
A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, 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 Kenneth E. Perkins: 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-Rockville, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to David Baker, Esq., Foley and Lardner, P.O. Box 2193, Orlando, Florida 32082.

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 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 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the University of Wisconsin Library Learning Center, 2420 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of February, 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Timothy G. Colburn, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects