



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 1, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Sholly Coordinator

FROM: Thierry Ross, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION IN BIWEEKLY FR NOTICE - NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING (TAC NO. 71181 AND 71182)

Commonwealth Edison Company, (CECo) Docket Nos. 50-254 and 50-265, Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, Rock Island County, Illinois

Date of application for amendment: November 16, 1988

Description of amendment request: The current Technical Specifications (TS) requirement for local leak rate testing of Main Steam Isolation Valves (MSIV) is once every 18 months. This amendment request proposes to change the surveillance testing frequency of TS 4.7.A.2.d.2 to "once per operating cycle ... not to exceed 24 months." Such a change is deemed necessary to allow for extension in plant fuel cycles from 12 months to 18 months.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: The Commission has provided standards for determining whether a significant hazards consideration exists. As stated in 10 CFR 50.92(c), a proposed amendment to an operating license for a facility involves no significant hazards consideration 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 from any accident previously

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evaluated, (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. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a) the licensee has provided an evaluation of their amendment application addressing these three standards.

CECo has evaluated the proposed Technical Specifications change and concluded that conducting local leak rate tests of MSIVs in accordance with the proposed change:

1) Will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because operability of MSIVs is not adversely affected. Surveillance testing is only one of several mechanisms for ensuring important equipment are capable and ready to perform their safety function. Intervals for surveillance testing are usually based upon regulatory guidance and/or requirements. Presuming proper scheduling, these intervals are purposefully designed not to impact upon power operations (i.e. surveillance intervals shouldn't necessitate a forced shutdown). Presently, all primary containment isolation valves except MSIVs, are prescribed by TS 4.7.2.d to be tested every 24 months. This is consistent with the regulatory requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix J, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water Cooled Power Reactors". Revising the surveillance interval for MSIV local leak rate testing, as proposed by the amendment application, merely corrects the TS to conform with the original intent of the TS requirement - to ensure MSIV testing occurred at least every

fuel cycle (i.e. every refueling outage since MSIVs can not be tested at power), but not to exceed Appendix J requirements.

2) Will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated because performing local leak rate tests on the MSIVs at a maximum interval of 24 months does not alter their safety-related function. These valves will continue to be tested at regular intervals, similar to other primary containment isolation valves as specified in 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. The fundamental intent of the TS requirement for 18 months surveillance intervals was to ensure MSIV testing would be conducted at least every fuel cycle and not exceed Appendix J. The revised TS requirements achieve exactly the same intent, but is designed to allow for today's fuel cycles that have grown from 12 to 18 months. In any respect, revised surveillance intervals (in of themselves) do not affect equipment function or operation.

3) Will not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety because no protective setpoint or operating parameters are being changed.

Therefore the NRC staff proposes to determine that this amendment request does not involve significant hazards considerations based upon a preliminary review of the application, the licensee's evaluation of no significant hazards, and NRC guidance.

Local Public Document Room location: Dixon Public Library, 221 Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

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NRC Project Director: Daniel R. Muller



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