

October 8, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-254
and 50-265

Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
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Dear Mr. Kovach:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
(TAC NOS. 81560 AND 81561)

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendment dated September 24, 1991.

The proposed amendment would change Technical Specification 4.8.H.2.b(2), which defines a differential temperature criteria for the control room emergency filtration system heater. The proposed change establishes a differential temperature requirement based upon flow, consistent with the design basis of the system.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Commonwealth Edison Company

Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-254 AND 50-265

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, 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 Nos. DPR-29 and DPR-30 issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee) for operation of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Rock Island County, Illinois.

The proposed amendments would change Technical Specification 4.8.H.2.b(2), which defines a differential temperature criteria for the control room emergency filtration system heater. The proposed change establishes a differential temperature requirement based upon flow, consistent with the design basis of the system.

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 consideration. 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. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

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

The safety objective of the control room air filtration unit is to provide filtered air to pressurize the control room after a design basis accident to limit control room doses within the limits of GDC-19. To accomplish this objective, outside air is passed through a roughing filter, heated to assure that relative humidity is below 70%, filtered through a HEPA filter/charcoal adsorber combination and routed to a booster fan and the "B" train of the control room HVAC [heating, ventilation and air conditioning]. The 70% relative humidity criteria assures that the charcoal adsorbers will function efficiently to limit control room doses.

The proposed amendment provides revised operability criteria for the differential temperature requirement of the CREF [control room emergency filtration] system heater. This revised criteria is based upon the flow at which the heater operability test is performed.

The proposed Technical Specification does not involve any new operation of the plant or affect any accident initiators or precursors. The change does not involve the new installation of equipment. As such, the probability of the accident remains unchanged.

The proposed amendment does not affect the consequences of the accident. The design bases for the heater is to reduce the relative humidity of the atmosphere to the inlet of the charcoal adsorbers to less than 70% to assure efficient charcoal adsorber performance. To achieve a relative humidity of less than 70%, assuming that the incoming air supply is less than 95°F wet-bulb temperature, a 12°F[delta]T is required. The Technical Specification requirement of 15°F[delta]T ensures that the relative humidity of the inlet air to the charcoal adsorbers is less than 70% under all flow conditions. This is unnecessarily conservative when the system is successfully tested at flows greater than 1800 cfm. The proposed amendment revises the differential temperature requirement to establish a [delta]T range of 15°F to 12°F based on a system flow of 1800 cfm to 2200 cfm, respectively. This proposed differential temperature and associated flow requirement will ensure that the

relative humidity at the charcoal adsorber inlet remains below 70%, provided that the incoming air supply remains below 95° wet-bulb temperature. As such, the proposed differential temperature requirement will ensure that relative humidity will be maintained at less than 70%. This in turn will ensure efficient charcoal adsorber performance and thus maintain control room doses below the requirements of GDC-19.

2. The proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

The design objective of the CREF System is to provide filtered outside air to pressurize the control room to limit the control room dose during and after the design basis accident. The control room air filtration unit does not affect any accident precursors or accident initiators. The proposed amendment requests revised differential temperature criteria bases on flow conditions, in order to assure that relative humidity to the inlet of the charcoal adsorbers is maintained below 70%, thereby assuring control room doses are maintained below GDC-19 requirements. As such, the proposed amendment does not involve any new modes of operation and does not involve the installation of new equipment. Consequently, the proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The CREF System is designed to ensure that control room occupants are not subject to excessive radiation doses during an accident. The limiting dose which can be received by control room occupants is defined in GDC-19. The control room dose is dependent on the efficiency of the charcoal adsorbers which in turn is dependent upon the relative humidity at the inlet of the charcoal adsorbers. Regulatory Guide 1.52, "Design, Testing and Maintenance Criteria for Post Accident Engineered-Safety-Feature Atmosphere Cleanup Air Filtration and Adsorption Units of Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants" requires that the relative humidity is maintained at less than 70%.

The existing Technical Specification requires that the heater maintain a 15°[delta]T to assure that the atmosphere at the inlet of the charcoal adsorber is maintained at less than 70% to assure efficient charcoal adsorber performance thereby maintaining control room doses within the limits of GDC-19. The 15°[delta]T is valid for the range of all temperature/humidity conditions up to an outside air temperature of 95°F wet-bulb temperature.

The proposed amendment requests a revised criteria for the differential temperature requirement which will ensure that inlet relative humidity will be limited to less than 70%, based on

outside air temperature/humidity conditions which correspond to 95° wet-bulb temperature. The requested differential temperature criteria provides a range of $[\Delta] T_s$ required for the range of operable flows. As a result, control room doses will remain below GDC-19 limits.

The margin of safety is not significantly reduced with this proposed change since control room doses will be maintained below GDC-19 limits.

The proposed amendment does not involve a significant relaxation of the criteria used to establish safety limits, a significant relaxation of the bases for the Limiting Safety System Settings or a significant relaxation of the bases for the Limiting Conditions for Operation. Therefore, based on the criteria of 10 CFR 50.92(c), the proposed change does not constitute a significant hazards consideration.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within thirty (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.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-223, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By November 15, 1991 , 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 request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Dixon Public Library, 221 Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021. 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 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 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. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. 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 amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any 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 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 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 in the FEDERAL REGISTER 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, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, 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 1-(800) 325-6000 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Richard J. Barrett: 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, DC 20555, and to Michael I. Miller, Esquire; Sidley and Austin, One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60690, attorney for the licensee.

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 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 amendment dated September 24, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building,

2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at the Dixon Public Library, 221 Hennepin Avenue, Dixon, Illinois 61021.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of October 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation