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May 21, 1999

AEP:NRC:1327

Docket Nos.: 50-315
50-316

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop O-P1-17
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CHANGE REQUEST
POSITIVE REACTIVITY CHANGES

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M), the Licensee for Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant units 1 and 2, proposes to amend Appendix A, technical specifications (T/S), of facility operating licenses DPR-58 and DPR-74. I&M proposes to revise limitations on positive reactivity additions in several T/S action statements. The proposed changes would allow reactor coolant system temperature changes in certain Mode 5 and 6 action statements if the shutdown margin is sufficient to accommodate the expected temperature change. In addition, footnotes regarding additions of water from the refueling water storage tank to the reactor coolant system are clarified and relocated to action statements. Additional actions are added in Table 3.3-1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation," when the required source range neutron flux channel is inoperable. Corresponding changes are proposed for the bases for T/S 3/4.1.1, "Boration Control," and T/S 3/4.1.2, "Boration Systems." Administrative changes are proposed to improve clarity. Finally, additions are made to shutdown margin T/S surveillance requirements to address use of a boron penalty (requirement for additional boron) during residual heat removal system operation in Modes 4 and 5.

Attachment 1 provides a detailed description and safety analysis to support the proposed changes. Attachments 2A and 2B provide marked up T/S pages for unit 1 and unit 2, respectively. Attachments 3A and 3B provide the proposed T/S pages with the changes incorporated for unit 1 and unit 2, respectively. Attachment 4 describes the evaluation performed in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92(c), which concludes that no significant hazards consideration is involved. Attachment 5 provides the environmental assessment.

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I&M requests approval of this request as soon as practicable because unit 1 is in T/S action statements that require suspension of operations involving positive reactivity changes because the emergency diesel generators (EDGs) are inoperable. This has created a hardship because operations that could affect reactor coolant system temperature need to be performed while maintaining the temperature within a very narrow range. The proposed license amendment is needed to provide the flexibility necessary to provide for continued safe reactor operations while also limiting the potential for inadvertent addition of excess positive reactivity. I&M is expecting the unit 1 EDGs to be operable by June. However, emerging work on the EDGs and possible emerging work on the emergency buses may prolong the inoperability of the charging pumps and, thus, the action requiring suspension of operations involving positive reactivity changes.

Two previous submittals affect pages that are submitted in this request. The T/S pages in attachments 2A, 2B, 3A, and 3B do not reflect the changes proposed in the previous submittals. I&M will coordinate changes to the pages with the project manager to ensure proper page control when the associated amendment requests are approved.

Copies of this letter and its attachments are being transmitted to the Michigan Public Service Commission and Michigan Department of Public Health, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.91.

Should you have any questions, please contact
Mr. David F. Kunsemiller, Director of Regulatory Affairs, at
(616) 466-2405.

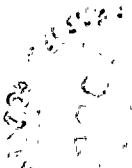
Sincerely,



R. P. Powers
Vice President

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME

THIS 21st DAY OF May, 1999


Janice M. Bickers
Notary Public

JANICE M. BICKERS
Notary Public, Berrien County, MI
My Commission Expires Feb. 16, 2001

My Commission Expires 2/16/2001

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Attachments

- c: A. C. Bakken, III, w/attachments
J. E. Dyer, w/attachments
MDEQ - DW & RPD
NRC Resident Inspector, w/attachments
R. Whale

