



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 126 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-33
AMENDMENT NO. 121 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-52
AMENDMENT NO. 97 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-68

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1, 2 AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-259, 50-260 AND 50-296

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 5, 1985, the Tennessee Valley Authority (the licensee or TVA) requested amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52 and DPR-68 for the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3. The amendments would permit offgas post-treatment radiation monitors and main stack radiation monitors to be considered operable for up to 1 hour during purging.

2.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

The offgas post-treatment radiation monitors consist of two instrument channels which share a common piping system. The main stack radiation monitors are similarly arranged. This arrangement precludes purging of one channel at a time.

Purging is a necessary part of the required surveillance testing. During purging, both channels contain purge air instead of effluent, and are therefore inoperable. With both channels inoperable, the event is reportable and requires a shutdown per the Technical Specifications. Since purging takes less than 1 hour, the present requirements impose an unreasonable burden having questionable safety significance. The proposed amendments will permit the radiation monitors to be considered operable during periods of purging less than 1 hour. This is acceptable in view of the fact that the purging operation is a required safety action, and is consistent with a related specification which indicates that effluent streams having continuous monitoring capability need only be monitored and recorded hourly.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The amendments involve a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents

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that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

4.0 CONCLUSION

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: W. Long

Dated: January 13, 1986

