



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 34 TO LICENSE NO. NPF-57

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-354

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 18, 1989 (Ref. 1), as amended by letter dated August 21, 1989 (Ref. 2) (NLR-N89160) (LCR 89-12, Rev. 1), Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the licensee) proposed changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the Hope Creek Generating Station. The proposed changes would modify specifications having cycle-specific parameter limits by replacing the values of those limits with a reference to the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR) for the values of those limits. The proposed changes also include the addition of the COLR to the Definitions section and to the reporting requirements of the Administrative Controls section of TS. Guidance on the proposed changes was developed by NRC on the basis of the review of a lead-plant proposal submitted on the Oconee plant docket by Duke Power Company. This guidance was provided to all power reactor licensees and applicants by Generic Letter 88-16, dated October 4, 1988 (Ref. 3).

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee's proposed changes to the TS are in accordance with the guidance provided by Generic Letter 88-16 and are addressed below.

- (1) The Definition section of the TS was modified to include a definition of the Core Operating Limits Report that requires cycle/reload-specific parameter limits to be established on a unit-specific basis in accordance with an NRC approved methodology that maintains the limits of the safety analysis. The definition notes that plant operation within these limits is addressed by individual specifications.
- (2) The following specifications were revised to replace the values of cycle-specific parameter limits with a reference to the COLR that provides these limits.

(a) Specification 3/4.2.1

The Average Planar Linear Heat Generation Rate limits for this specification are provided in the COLR.

(b) Specification 3/4.2.3

The Minimum Critical Power Ratio limits and the K_f factor for this specification are provided in the COLR.

(c) Specification 3/4.2.4

The Linear Heat Generation Rate limits for this specification are provided in the COLR.

The bases of affected specifications have been modified by the licensee to include appropriate reference to the COLR. Based on our review, we conclude that the changes to these bases are acceptable.

- (3) Specification 6.9.1.9 was added to the reporting requirements of the Administrative Controls section of the TS. This specification requires that the COLR be submitted, upon issuance, to the NRC Document Control Desk with copies to the Regional Administrator and Resident Inspector. The report provides the values of cycle-specific parameter limits that are applicable for the current fuel cycle. Furthermore, these specifications require that the values of these limits be established using NRC approved methodologies and be consistent with all applicable limits of the safety analysis. The approved methodology is the following:

NEDE-24011-P-A, "General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel," (latest approved version).

Finally, the specification requires that all changes in cycle-specific parameter limits be documented in the COLR before each reload cycle or remaining part of a reload cycle and submitted upon issuance to NRC, prior to operation with the new parameter limits.

On the basis of the review of the above items, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee provided an acceptable response to those items as addressed in the NRC guidance in Generic Letter 88-16 on modifying cycle-specific parameter limits in TS. Because plant operation continues to be limited in accordance with the values of cycle-specific parameter limits that are established using an NRC approved methodology, the NRC staff concludes that this change is administrative in nature and there is no impact on plant safety as a consequence. Accordingly, the staff finds that the proposed changes are acceptable.

As part of the implementation of Generic Letter 88-16, the staff has also reviewed a sample COLR that was provided by the licensee. On the basis of this review, the staff concludes that the format and content of the sample COLR are acceptable.

We have reviewed the request by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company to modify the Technical Specifications of the Hope Creek Generating Station that would remove the specific values of some cycle-dependent parameters from the specifications and place the values in a Core Operating Limits Report that would be referenced by the specification. Based on this review, we conclude that these Technical Specification modifications are acceptable.

In addition, administrative clarifications and minor corrections have been made to the licensee's incoming Technical Specification pages vi, xvii and 3/4 2-4 to be consistent with their renumbering of the pages and the repaginating as they requested. Pages 3/4 2-1 through of 3/4 6-24 were added for document completeness because of repagination. Page 5-4 was amended in a separate exigent amendment.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change to a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes to the surveillance requirements. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents 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 this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9).

This amendment also involves changes in recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission made a proposed determination that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register (54 FR 27240) on June 28, 1989 and (54 FR 38577) on September 19, 1989 and consulted with the State of New Jersey. No public comments were received and the State of New Jersey did not have any comments.

The staff has 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 this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security nor to the health and safety of the public.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Letter (LCR-89-12) from S.E. Miltenberger (PSE&G) to NRC, dated May 18, 1989.
2. Letter (LCR-89-12, Rev. 1) from S.E. Miltenberger (PSE&G) to NRC, dated August 21, 1989.
3. Generic Letter 88-16, "Removal of Cycle-Specific Parameter Limits from Technical Specifications," dated October 4, 1988.

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Dated: October 20, 1989