

SAFETY EVALUATION FOR OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE TO TABLE 4.1-3

Discussion

Duke Power Company's (the licensee's) letter of May 6, 1977 proposed changes to Table 4.1-3 of Section 4.1, Operational Safety Review, of the Appendix A Technical Specifications for Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2 and 3. The licensee requested in their letter that:

1. The "Gamma Isotopic Analysis" required in Table 4.1-3 be changed to an analysis of "Principal Gamma Emitters."
2. A footnote be added to Table 4.1-3 to account for gamma emitting radionuclides which are present at low activity levels in a mixture of gamma emitters at much higher activity levels.

To support the proposed changes, the licensee stated in their letter that it may not be possible to measure the activity level of some radionuclides at their specified sensitivity limit because of the presence of other radionuclides at much higher activity levels and that the proposed changes are necessary to resolve the problem of accounting for these low activity radionuclides.

Evaluation

We have completed our review of the proposed changes to Table 4.1-3 of the Technical Specifications for Oconee Nuclear Stations Units 1, 2 and 3.

The proposed change to replace the phrase "Gamma Isotopic Analysis" by the phrase "Principal Gamma Emitters" does not change (1) the requirement on

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the licensee to conduct a gamma analysis of the effluents from the station, (2) the minimum frequency of the analysis or (3) the sensitivity limits of the analysis. The proposed change provides that the required gamma analysis of radioactive material released in liquid and gaseous effluent from the station determine only the "principal" gamma emitters. The word "principal" is defined by the proposed footnote 5 to Table 4.1-3. The principal gamma emitters are radionuclides which have a measured activity greater than their minimum detectable activity or which have a minimum detectable activity greater than 1% of the total measured activity. This 1% criteria is smaller than the error associated with measuring the activity itself. Therefore, the proposed changes to Table 4.1-3 are acceptable.

These proposed changes will not allow the licensee to discharge greater concentrations or total activity than the maximum allowed in the past and the amount discharged below these limits will not change as a result of this amendment. Consequently, there will be no appreciable effect on the environment or health and safety of the public from this action.

By letter dated June 4, 1976, the licensee provided additional information pursuant to Appendix I to 10 CFR Part 50. After we complete our evaluation of this information we intend to revise the Technical Specifications to reflect the requirements of Appendix I.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a significant change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this

determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4), that an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) 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 or to the health and safety of the public.