

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-245ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-21 issued to Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (the licensee), for operation of Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, located in New London County, Connecticut.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise reactor protection system (RPS) trip level settings as specified in Section 2 of the Technical Specifications (TS). Specifically, (1) the turbine stop valve closure scram bypass setpoint would be changed from 45% of rated power as measured by the turbine first stage pressure to 50% of rated reactor thermal power; (2) the turbine control valve fast closure scram bypass setpoint would be changed from 301 MWe to 50% of rated reactor thermal power; and (3) the average power range monitor (APRM) flux scram trip setting would be changed from an initial generator power greater than 307 MWe to 50% of rated reactor thermal power.

The proposed amendment was requested by the licensee in a letter dated August 17, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes to the TS are needed to help minimize spurious scrams that occur more frequently at low power and to have consistency in the basis for these scram setpoints.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the TS. The licensee evaluated the proposed setpoint change to 50% of rated thermal power using that change as the basis for the evaluation of bounding transients. The justification of the change in the scram bypass setpoint to 50% power is documented in the General Electric Analysis MDE-276-1285, "Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1 Scram Bypass Setpoint Evaluation," dated December 1985. The proposed action does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously analyzed in that they are bounded by and do not affect the current design basis accident analyses. The proposed action does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed in that there are no new failure modes created and any changes in plant response are bounded by current analyses. In addition, the proposed action does not involve any significant reduction in a margin of safety because the action does not impact any plant safety limits. The proposed changes to the TS would not affect plant effluents during normal or accident conditions. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action involves setpoints of the RPS which is located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The action does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impacts. Therefore, the Commission concludes that the proposed action has no significant non-radiological environmental impact.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity for Prior Hearing was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on March 31, 1988 (53 FR 10451). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and might result in additional spurious scrams at low power.

Alternative Use of Resources:

These actions do not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (FES) for Millstone Nuclear Power Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The staff has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated August 17, 1987, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Waterford Public Library, 49 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of November 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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