SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-320

THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2

Introduction

By letter dated October 31, 1980 (Reference 1) the Metropolitan Edison Company (licensee) proposed changes to license condition 2.E.(3) of the TMI-2 Operating License. The proposed changes would revise license condition 2.E.(3) so that tankage to store waste water would no longer be required to be reserved in TMI-1 but would rather be required to be reserved in TMI-2. The requirements contained in this license condition were imposed by the Order for Modification of License dated October 18, 1979 by the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. License condition 2.E.(3) was formally added to the TMI-2 Operating License on March 12, 1980 as part of License Amendment No. 10 (Reference 2). This license condition has been interpreted to require that the licensee maintain two Reactor Coolant Bleed Tanks in reserve in TMI-1 to be used to store waste water from TMI-2 should additional storage become necessary.

Evaluation

License condition 2.E.(3) of the TMI-2 Operating License currently requires that the licensee shall maintain suitable tankage at TMI-1 that could be used to store waste water from TMI-2 at an appropriate state of readiness, should additional storage become necessary. This requirement has been interpreted to mean the shielded storage capacity provided by at least two Reactor Coolant Bleed Tanks (RCBT) in TMI-1. The requirement for providing the tankage at TMI-1 was imposed

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by the Order for Modification of License dated October 18, 1979 when the NRC approved operation of the EPICOR-II system (Reference 3). At that time there was little unused waste water storage capacity available within the TMI-2 waste handling system. Therefore, storage capacity was reserved in TMI-1 to be used in the event additional storage capacity was required. However, through operation of the EPICOR-II system, most of the contaminated water in the TMI-2 auxiliary and fuel handling buildings has been decontaminated thereby emptying much of the waste water tankage in the TMI-2 facility. Presently, two TMI-2 RCBT and the tank farm tanks in the TMI-2 "A" spent fuel pool are available for the contingency reserve which was previously being provided by the two RCBT in TMI-1. Reserving storage capacity in TMI-2 does not authorize any significant change in the plant's operations since the two TMI-2 RCBT and the tanks in the "A" spent fuel pool are not required for other operations.

The water decontaminated by the EPICOR-II system has not been discharged but is being stored in various unshielded tanks (e.g., the BWST, condensate storage tank, EPICOR-II clean water receiving tank, and EPICOR-II off spec water receiving tank) at TMI-2.

The proposed change in license condition 2.E.(3) would not delete any requirements for reserving shielded storage tank capacity; it would only shift the provisions for reserving this tankage from TMI-1 to TMI-2. Therefore, since shielded storage tanks with capacities greater than or equal to that previously reserved in TMI-1 are now available in TMI-2 and since these TMI-2 tanks are not required for other operations, there is no need for reserving storage capacity in TMI-1 and consequently the licensee's request to amend license condition 2.E.(3) can be granted.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the modification does not authorize a 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 modification 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 the modification.

Conclusion

Based upon our review of the proposed change to license condition 2.E.(3), we find the licensee's request to be acceptable and grant the request. The proposed change will assure the continued availability of suitable shielded tankage that could be used to store waste water from TMI-2 should such storage become necessary. Based on these considerations, we have concluded that: (1) the modification does not authorize any significant change in the plant's operation, (2) the modification does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered or a significant reduction in a margin of safety and does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (3) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the modified manner, and (4) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this modification will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

REFERENCES

1. Letter to B. Snyder, USNRC, from G. K. Hovey, Met. Ed/GPU, License Amendment Request No. 1, dated October 31, 1980, (TLL 535).

2. Amendment No. 10 to DPR-73, Enclosure No. 1 of letter to R. C. Arnold, Met. Ed/GPU, from R. H. Vollmer, USNRC, dated March 12, 1980.

3. Order for Modification of License, Enclosure No. 1 of letter to R. C. Arnold, Met. Ed/GPU, from R. H. Vollmer, USNRC, dated October 22, 1979.