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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 44

TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-49

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY, ET AL.

MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 3

DOCKET NO. 50-423

INTRODUCTION

By application for license amendment dated August 22, 1989, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al. (the licensee), requested changes to Millstone Unit 3 Technical Specifications (TS).

The proposed amendment would modify TS 3/4.3.3.7, "Fire Detection Instrumentation" as follows: (1) An incorrect reference to containment air temperature monitoring requirements would be corrected, (2) A definition of "not accessible during plant operation" would be incorporated in the TS as a footnote and (3) Changes would made to list of fire detectors contained in TS Table 3.3-11, "Fire Detection Instruments."

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

At the present time, TS 3.3.3.7, Action b, references TS 4.6.1.6 regarding remedial action to be taken when required fire detectors inside containment become inoperable. The correct reference in TS 3.3.3.7 should be TS 4.6.1.5 rather than TS 4.6.1.6. The purpose of TS 4.6.1.5 is to allow containment temperature to be monitored in the event of a malfunction of the fire detection system. Section 4.6.1.6 deals with structural integrity and is incorrectly referenced under the existing TS 3.3.3.7.

Since the proposed change to TS 3.3.7 would correct an error, and does not otherwise change the requirements in the TS or the safety analyses, the proposed change to the TS is acceptable.

The licensee has also proposed a change to TS 4.3.3.7.1. At the present time, TS 4.3.3.7.1 allows the licensee to delay the operational test for fire detectors, which are not accessible during plant operation, until the next cold shutdown exceeding 24 hours. The licensee has proposed that TS 4.3.3.7.1 be clarified by the addition of a footnote which identifies inaccessible fire detectors to include, "...detectors in the Reactor Containment, HIGH Radiation Areas, and areas contaminated in excess of 100,000 dpm per 100 cm^2."

In addition the licensee has proposed a change to TS Table 3.3-11. The proposed changes would correct inconsistencies between the TS and the actual location and numbers of fire detectors at Millstone Unit 3.

With regard to the proposed changes to TS 4.3.3.7.1 and TS Table 3.3-11, these changes provide only clarifications and corrections to the TS and do not otherwise change the requirements in the TS or the fire hazards analysis. Accordingly, the proposed changes to the TS are acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. We have 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 staff has previously published a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendment meets 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 amendment.

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 (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: December 27, 1989

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