



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 72 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-37

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

SURRY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-281

Introduction

By letter dated July 7, 1981, Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) requested an amendment to the Surry Power Station, Unit No. 2, which would change the Technical Specifications to allow a 60 day extension of the interval for inspecting 158 inaccessible hydraulic snubbers. The extension would be a one-time extension and would expire on September 10, 1981.

This extension will allow continued operation of Surry, Unit No. 2, until Surry, Unit No. 1, returns to power operations following an extended Steam Generator Replacement Outage and until North Anna, Unit No. 2, returns to power operations following the recent failure of a main transformer. This extension will maximize the use of the licensee's remaining nuclear units and minimize the cost of replacement power, and the ultimate cost to the consumer, during an anticipated peak load period.

Discussion and Evaluation

The Technical Specifications require periodic inspections of snubbers on a schedule ranging from 31 days \pm 25% if more than eight snubbers are found to be inoperable to 18 months \pm 25% if no snubbers are found to be inoperable.

The present cycle of operations follows an extended Steam Generator Replacement and Refueling Outage. During this extended outage all hydraulic snubbers were removed, rebuilt or replaced as necessary and functionally tested satisfactorily prior to reinstallation. The first visual inspection conducted in April 1981 following the extended outage revealed seven inoperable snubbers. All of the snubbers were inoperable due to the leakage of fittings either at the valve block or the reservoir. In addition, two of the seven had loose baseplates which were replaced with redesigned baseplates. All inoperable snubbers were replaced and all leaking fittings were replaced or repaired. As a result of these inspection findings the present visual inspection interval is 62 days \pm 25%.

Of the total of two hundred and fifty-two hydraulic snubbers, all seventy-seven accessible snubbers and seventeen normally inaccessible snubbers located inside the containment will be visually inspected within the required interval. The seventeen hydraulic snubbers to be inspected inside the containment include six of the seven hydraulic snubbers found inoperable due to fitting leakage during the last visual inspection. The seventh snubber will not be inspected due to hazardous inspection conditions.

We have reviewed the licensee's request and find it to be reasonable in view of the stated need for power during this peak load period and the following reasons: (1) all snubbers were inspected and maintained during the steam generator repair outage and only seven snubbers out of 252 were found to be inoperable during the visual inspection in April 1981 and were inoperable because of leaking fittings. These leaking fittings could have been the result of improper reinstallation of snubbers during the steam generator outage, and would probably not have affected the ability of the snubber to perform, (2) all accessible snubbers will be inspected during the required interval, and (3) during a 60 day period the probability of a seismic event or LOCA is very low.

Based on the above reasons, we conclude that it is reasonable to extend the current inspection interval by 60 days which in this case would be until September 10, 1981.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment 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 amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR §31.5(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) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the amendment 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.

Date: July 9, 1981