

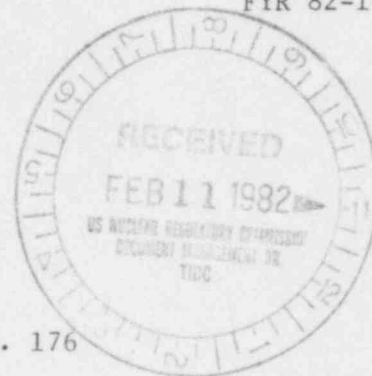
YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

Telephone 617 872-8100



1671 Worcester Road, Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

2.C.15.1
FYR 82-16



Proposed Change No. 176

February 9, 1982

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

References: (a) License No. DPR-3 (Docket No. 50-29)
(b) Amendment No. 53 to License No. DPR-3, dated November 24, 1978

Subject: Technical Specifications Governing Operation of the Incore
Instrumentation System (Proposed Change No. 176)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Section 50.59 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, Yankee Atomic Electric Company hereby proposes the following amendment to Appendix A of the Operating License.

Proposed Change

Reference is made to the Yankee Plant Operating License No. DPR-3. We propose to modify the license as follows:

1. Modify Specification 3.3.3.2 to allow for a change in the number of operable incore neutron detector thimbles for the remainder of Cycle 15 power operation.
2. Add Specification 4.2.1.4 describing the calculational methods due to the above change used to assure adequate operating margins.

Reason for Change

This change would allow an increase in plant operating flexibility while maintaining sufficient data collection capability to ensure that the operation of the core is within licensed limits.

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Description of Change

The current technical specification governing operability of the incore instrumentation system requires that 12 neutron detector thimbles be operable with at least 2 per core quadrant whenever the system is used for core power distribution measurements [Reference (b)].

The revised specification would allow for core power distribution measurements to be made with less than 12 operable thimbles if necessary for the remainder of Cycle 15 operation. Yankee feels that this change can be made after 4000 MWD/MTU in a cycle. At this point in the cycle operation, the core characteristics have been well established and specifically core power distribution is well defined. Burnup on Cycle 15 is currently at about 6000 MWD/MTU. A discussion of Cycle 15 performance and an evaluation of specific core parameters is included as Attachment A of this letter. Comparisons of measured values to limits have been made and margins to limits have all been acceptable. These comparisons are illustrated as Figure 1 - 8 attached to this letter. Based on these consistent performance records, a minimum of 5 detector thimbles constitute an acceptable number of instrumented positions to monitor core performance for the rest of Cycle 15.

Safety Considerations

This change involves the gathering of data supporting reactor core operations. Operation within the proposed Technical Specification will not endanger the health and safety of the public.

This proposed change has been reviewed by the Nuclear Safety Audit and Review Committee.

Fee Determination

This proposed change, as detailed above, requires an approval that involves a single safety issue and is deemed not to involve a significant hazards consideration. For these reasons, Yankee Atomic Electric Company proposes this change as a Class III Amendment. A payment of \$4,000 is enclosed.

Schedule of Change

Yankee is hereby requesting a high priority review of this proposed change and approval by February 26, 1982. The changes described herein will eliminate a current operating inflexibility in the Technical Specifications. The Yankee Technical Specifications will be changed immediately following Commission approval.

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We trust that you will find this submittal satisfactory. However, should you desire additional information, please contact us.


Very truly yours,

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

L. H. Heider
L. H. Heider
Vice President

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)
) ss
MIDDLESEX COUNTY)

Then personally appeared before me, L. H. Heider, who, being duly sworn, did state that he is a Vice President of Yankee Atomic Electric Company, that he is duly authorized to execute and file the foregoing request in the name and on the behalf of Yankee Atomic Electric Company and that the statements therein are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.


Robert H. Groce Notary Public
My Commission Expires September 14, 1984

