



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 14 TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-45

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

LA CROSSE BOILING WATER REACTOR

DOCKET NO. 50-409

Introduction

By application dated September 27, 1978, Dairyland Power Cooperative requested an amendment to the Operating License for the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) which would revise Table 4.2.17 of the Technical Specifications to allow the fire detectors in the Reactor Containment Building to be inoperable during the containment integrated leak rate test (CILRT).

Background

In accordance with the Technical Specifications of the LACBWR plant and Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, the Containment Building must be periodically pressurized and tested for leakage to verify that any leakage from the building under accident conditions will be within the limits assumed for the analysis of that accident. When the Containment Building atmosphere is pressurized, the fire detectors (ionization chambers) give false fire alarms because the ionization chamber current is affected by the density of the air. With the detectors in the alarmed condition, they are inoperable, i.e., unable to provide an alarm to the operators in the event of a fire in that detector's zone. The existing Technical Specification requires that, when the number of operable fire detectors in the Containment Building falls below the minimum number specified a fire watch patrol must inspect that zone within one hour and every four hours thereafter until the required number of detectors are returned to an operable status. During the CILRT the Containment Building is pressurized to 52 psig and personnel are not allowed in the building for reasons of personal safety.

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### Evaluation

During the performance of the CILRT, the reactor is in the cold shutdown condition. Therefore, the consequences of the effects of any fire on safe shutdown capability or release of radioactivity is greatly reduced. In addition, during the performance of the CILRT, very sensitive temperature and pressure detectors are installed in various areas of the building to determine the building leakage rate. These detectors would also indicate the presence of a fire. This data is continually monitored during the course of the CILRT. For these reasons, we have concluded that during this period it is acceptable for the installed fire detectors (ionization chambers) to be inoperable.

### Environmental Considerations

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 §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 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: October 11, 1978