



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 58

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 July 31, 1990, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, et al. (the licensee), requested changes to Millstone Unit 3 Technical Specifications (TS).

The proposed amendment would change Millstone Unit 3 Technical Specification (TS) 3.7.12.3, "CO₂ Systems" to clarify the remedial actions to be taken when one or more CO₂ fire suppression systems become inoperable.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

At the present time, Action Statement "a" for TS 3.7.12.3 requires that,

With one or more of the above required CO₂ Systems inoperable, within 1 hour establish a continuous fire² watch with backup fire suppression equipment for those areas in which redundant systems or components could be damaged; for other areas, establish an hourly fire watch patrol.

In the case of TS 3.7.12.3, the "... above required CO₂ systems" is a list of systems which does not distinguish between (1) "...² areas in which redundant systems or components could be damaged" and (2) "... other areas." The licensee states in their July 31, 1990 application that the cable spreading room contains the only CO₂ system which protects redundant systems or components. Accordingly, the licensee has proposed that Action Statement "a" be divided as follows:

- a. With the cable spreading room CO₂ system not OPERABLE, within 1 hour establish a continuous fire watch with backup fire suppression equipment.
- b. With one or more of the above required CO₂ systems (as indicated by asterick (*)) not OPERABLE, within 1 hour² verify that the fire barrier between adjacent areas is OPERABLE, and:
 1. If the fire barrier is OPERABLE, establish an hourly fire watch patrol for the affected area, or

2. If the fire barrier is not OPERABLE, establish a continuous fire watch for the affected area.

In the case of the above, the systems indicated by an asterick are all CO₂ systems except the CO₂ system in the cable spreading room.

The NRC staff has reviewed the Millstone Unit 3 Fire Protection Evaluation Report regarding the fire areas addressed in TS 3.7.12.3. We concur with the licensee that the cable spreading room is the only area addressed in TS 3.7.12.3 that contains redundant safe shutdown equipment that could be damaged by a fire. Accordingly, the cable spreading room is the only area that should be subjected to the more stringent requirements of proposed TS 3.7.12.3, Action "a". Based upon the above, we conclude that the proposed change to TS 3.7.12.3 clarifies the TS requirements, provides at least an equivalent level of protection when compared to the existing TS and is therefore acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The 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. 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: November 15, 1990

Principal Contributor:

D. Jaffe