

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 15
TO LICENSE NPF-9
DUKE POWER COMPANY

INTRODUCTION

In a letter dated June 22, 1982, the licensee requested changes to the McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 1, License No. NPF-9, License Condition 2.C.(11)n.(2) - Upgraded Meteorological and Dose Assessment Remote Interrogation Capability (III.A.2). The proposed changes involve extending the required implementation dates for a NUREG-0737 condition item.

EVALUATION

Pursuant to the TMI-related action items described in NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements" which were approved by the Commission for implementation, the McGuire Unit 1 operating license is conditioned that the upgraded meteorological measurements system be described by January 1, 1982, installed by July 1, 1982, and fully operational by October 1, 1982.

In its letter of June 22, 1982, requesting changes to the dates for installation and operation, the licensee stated that delays principally in procurement activities would make the dates for installation and operation of the equipment unattainable. Subsequently, in its letter of June 29, 1982, the licensee indicated that necessary equipment ordered in January 1982 was not expected to be delivered until September 1982. The licensee has requested in its August 3, 1982, letter that the license condition for date of installation be removed, and that the license condition for date of operation be extended to July 1983.

From the information provided by the licensee concerning procurement activities, it appears that the licensee has made reasonable efforts to obtain the equipment necessary to upgrade the meteorological measurements system to conform with the guidance referenced in the license condition. Procurement was hampered because specific guidance on the details of upgraded meteorological measurements programs for emergency preparedness considerations was available to licensees only in draft form; however, general criteria and a proposed implementation schedule have been available to licensees in NUREG-0737 and -0654, Rev. 1, since their publication in November 1980.

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The meteorological measurements program currently available for dose assessments in an emergency situation has been reviewed by the staff and found to be acceptable as an interim program until operation of the fully upgraded measurement program. Meteorological data from the current onsite program, or from the National Weather Service station at Charlotte, N.C. if the onsite program is inoperable, can be readily incorporated into emergency procedures. The upgraded meteorological measurements program will facilitate the use of meteorological information and make onsite data available to appropriate local, state, and Federal agencies in the event of an emergency situation at McGuire. Use of the current interim program does not involve a significant decrease in the licensee's emergency response capability. The staff does not consider that elimination of the installation date of July 1, 1982, to represent a significant safety concern. The staff also recognizes that the upgraded meteorological measurements program cannot be fully operational by October 1982 if necessary equipment is not expected to be delivered until September 1982. Allowing time for installation, check-out, and calibration of the new system as well as development of emergency procedures to incorporate data in a different format, an extension in the operation date from October 1982 to July 1983 appears reasonable. We have discussed this extension with the licensee who is in agreement with the extended date. The staff is developing evaluation criteria for review of upgraded meteorological measurements programs, and will conduct post-implementation appraisals of these programs beginning in 1983.

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 Section 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

Based on the consideration discussed above, we have concluded that because the proposed action does not: (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; (2) create the possibility of an accident of a type different from any evaluated previously; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration. Furthermore, we have concluded that there is reasonable

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assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and that issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: August 25, 1982

Principal Contributors: J. Fairbent, Accident Evaluation Branch, DSI
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