



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 46 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-62

ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-461

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 20, 1989, the Illinois Power Company (IP), et al. (the licensees), requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1. The proposed amendment would exempt containment isolation valves 1HG016 and 1HG017 from the SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT of Technical Specification 4.6.1.1.b when the unit is not in cold shutdown.

2.0 EVALUATION

At Clinton, Technical Specification surveillance 4.6.1.1.b requires that at least once per 31 days all containment penetrations that are not closed or capable of being closed by operable automatic containment isolation valves be verified closed by valves, blind flanges, or deactivated automatic valves. An exception to this surveillance requirement was previously approved for valves, blind flanges, and deactivated automatic valves that are locked, sealed, or secured in the closed position and are physically located in the primary containment steam tunnel or drywell.

The intent of this note is to permit a reduction in how often valves, blind flanges, and deactivated automatic valves that are located in the high radiation fields of the drywell, steam tunnel, and primary containment are checked, thereby reducing radiation exposure by requiring entry only in cold shutdown when the N^{16} is no longer present. Additionally, controls are required to ensure that the valve's position is not readily changed, by locking or sealing closed these valves.

Valves 1HG016 and 1HG017 are three-fourths-inch globe valves on test connections for hydrogen recombiner suction and return lines. They are normally locked shut and are also administratively controlled as containment penetration vent and drain valves. The valves are physically located in the auxiliary building, in a room adjacent to the steam tunnel. The radiation field in the room where these valves are located is quite high (600 mRem per hour) due to N^{16} in the main steam lines and reactor water cleanup lines. Also, the atmosphere in this room directly communicates with the steam tunnel. Currently, these valves are verified to be closed every 31 days.

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The licensee estimates that 10 person-Rem of exposure would be saved over the lifetime of the plant, under this proposal.

Consequently, this amendment request is consistent with the intent of the note for Technical Specification 4.6.1.1.b to reduce the cumulative radiation exposure by only requiring verification of selected sealed or locked valves when the unit is in cold shutdown and radiation fields due to N^{16} are not present. The proposed change is considered acceptable by the staff.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change to a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 or a change to a surveillance requirement. The staff has 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 Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this 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 this amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has 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 the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Dated: September 18, 1990