



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

SAFETY EVALUATION  
BY THE  
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 9 TO  
FACILITY LICENSE NO. TR-1  
GENERAL ELECTRIC TEST REACTOR  
DOCKET NO. 50-70

Introduction

By letter dated February 4, 1982, as supplemented by letters dated March 22, 1982 and April 15, 1982, the General Electric Company (GE, the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. TR-1. The amendment would change the Appendix A Technical Specification by deleting the requirement for certain tests and calibrations while the General Electric Test Reactor (GETR) is in a cold (defueled) shutdown condition. On October 24, 1977, GE was ordered by NRC to place and maintain the GETR in a cold (defueled) shutdown condition upon completion of the current operating cycle on October 27, 1977. This action was accomplished and subsequently verified by the NRC Region V Office of Inspection and Enforcement. The requested changes will relieve GE of the requirement to perform certain tests and calibrations for the remainder of the present cold shutdown period. All tests and calibrations postponed during the extended outage will have to be satisfactorily completed prior to reactor startup.

Evaluation

The licensee's information supporting this request was reviewed under contract by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The LANL Technical Evaluation Report (TER) documenting this review is attached. The LANL TER indicates that the hottest GETR fuel element has cooled to a level at which no damage to the element from stored decay heat can occur, even in the worst heat transfer case. Therefore, calibration of water level instrumentation for the storage canal, where the fuel is stored, is not necessary, and the surveillance provided by the radiation detection units and by the sump high-level alarm is adequate. The water level instrumentation will remain operative, but will not be calibrated. Also, as a logical consequence, to the above, there is no longer a necessity to assure the availability of emergency power, although battery lights and manually started diesel power would be available. Because all fuel has been removed from the reactor, there are a number of tests and calibrations associated with the reactor primary system which need not be continued.

The NRC staff has reviewed the LANL TER and concurs on and endorses it. The requested changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered, do not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, nor do they involve a significant hazards consideration.

#### Environmental Consideration

The staff has 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, the staff has 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

The staff has 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 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.

Dated: OCT 15 1982