



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 67 TO LICENSE NO. DPR-36

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-309

1.0 Introduction

By letter dated October 7, 1982 (Ref. 1) the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company proposed changes in the Technical Specifications of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station. These changes concern the operability of the power operated relief valves (PORVs) during certain required hydrostatic tests when the PORV setpoint is approached.

According to 10 CFR 50.55(a)(g)(4)(ii), "System pressure tests conducted during successive 120 month inspection intervals shall comply with the requirements of the latest edition of the (ASME) Code..." Section IWB-2500 of the ASME code requires the reactor vessel and pressurizer to undergo hydrostatic testing in accordance with Section IWB-5222 at or near the end of each (120 month) inspection interval.

Maine Yankee is approaching the end of its first inspection interval and the licensee is planning to perform a system hydrostatic test on the RCS prior to startup of cycle 7. The system hydrostatic test will be conducted at a reduced test pressure as set forth in Table IWB-5220-1. However, this pressure will approach the PORV setpoint. Therefore, MYAPC is seeking relief to enable the PORVs to be temporarily rendered inoperable during hydrostatic testing when the PORV setpoint is approached.

2.0 Evaluation

The conditions of the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) components are specified in the Technical Specifications to assure safe reactor operation. The RCS is normally protected from overpressure conditions by the PORVs and pressurizer safety valves. In normal conditions, the PORVs have a set pressure of 2385 psig (Ref. 2). When open, a PORV can provide a relief flow capacity of 150,000 lb/hr.

However, in the event that the PORV is blocked closed, the pressurizer safety valves can provide the same overpressure protection. The first safety valve is set at a pressure of 2485 psig and can provide 200,000 lb/hr of flow capacity. The pressure level is the design capacity of the RCS.

Therefore, the licensee's proposal to close the PORVs and render them inoperable during hydrostatic testing does not eliminate RCS overpressure protection. We find the licensee's proposed change acceptable.

### 3.0 Technical Specification

The licensee has proposed a modification to the Maine Yankee Technical Specifications that would allow the PORVs to be closed and rendered inoperable for purposes of hydrostatic testing. Based on the evaluation in Section 2.0 of this SE, we find this change to be acceptable.

### 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 §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 an accident previously evaluated, does not create the possibility of an accident of a type different from any evaluated previously, and does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety, 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: November 9, 1982

Principal Contributors:

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### References

1. Letter from Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company to US NRC dated October 7, 1982 (MN-82-195).
2. Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station, FSAR, Docket No. 50-309.