

MAR 09 1983

DOCKET NO: 70-2946

LICENSEE: Louisiana Power and Light Company

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT - REVIEW OF LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION DATED FEBRUARY 14, 1983 AND ITS SUPPLEMENT DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1983.

I. Background

The SNM-1913 NRC Materials License, issued to Louisiana Power and Light Company (LPL) on February 9, 1983 includes (1) the licensee's commitment to its Fire Protection Program for the entire facility and (2) specifies that the crane operator shall independently verify the authorized loading of each fuel assembly into the spent fuel pool storage racks and confirm in writing the completion of each transfer of a fuel assembly to the spent fuel racks.

By application dated February 14, 1983, and supplement dated February 21, 1983 LPL requested an amendment to delete certain requirements in their Fire Prevention Program and delete the requirement that the crane operator must confirm that each fuel assembly is positioned properly in the spent fuel rack and sign the SNM Transfer Report.

II. Discussion

The Waterford 3 Fire Protection Program, as described in the licensee's original application dated July 27, 1981, will not be fully operational while fresh fuel is stored on the site. However, combustibles in the new fuel storage areas will be minimized and fire extinguishers will be provided in accordance with NFPA-10, 1978 to serve as the primary means of fire protection. Although ionization detectors are present throughout the Fuel Handling Building, to detect the existence of a fire, they may not be operable. When the detectors are not used, fire watches will be used instead.

Since there are a minimum of combustibles in the Fuel Handling Building, fire extinguishers and hoses are available in the storage areas and the fire detection system is operable, the staff has determined the fire protection measures provided are adequate for the facility.

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The crane operator, as specified in SNM-1913, condition 18, must independently verify in writing the positioning of each fuel assembly in the spent fuel racks. It is very time consuming for the crane operator to go from his crane cab to the fuel level to verify the spent fuel pool storage rack loading. Therefore the licensee has requested authorization to have other staff members, trained in the procedures for storing fuel assemblies in the spent fuel racks, perform independent verifications of storage rack loadings and confirm it in writing. The NRC staff feels that any staff member, trained in the fuel assembly storage in the spent fuel pool racks can adequately perform the independent verification of the storage rack loading.

III. General

The amendment application, and its supplement was discussed with Mr. George Constable, Region IV, Resident Inspector on February 24, 1983. He did not foresee any safety or environmental problems with the requested authorization.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

The NRC staff has determined that by minimizing the amount of combustible material in the Fuel Handling Building, maintaining a full-time fire watch, the availability of fire extinguishers for primary control of fires and supported by water hoses in the fuel storage areas, the licensee's activities can be performed without undue risk to the health and safety of the public and the operating personnel.

The staff has also determined that any member of LPL's staff can be adequately trained to confirm the loading of fuel assemblies in the spent fuel pool storage racks. Therefore, the staff recommends issuance of this amendment, subject to the following:

1. Addition of the dates of February 14, and 21, 1983 to Item 9 in the license, and
2. Modification of Condition 18 as follows:

The Nuclear Engineering Engineer-Nuclear shall appoint an SNM handling supervisor for each shift to supervise fuel handling operations. The supervisor shall verify that each assembly, by serial number, is positioned in its proper location in the spent fuel racks in accordance

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with a written plan approved by the Nuclear Engineering Engineer-Nuclear. Another trained staff member shall independently verify the authorized loading of each assembly into the racks and confirm it in writing at the completion of each transfer of a fuel assembly to the spent fuel racks.

Original signed by:
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Original signed by:
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Approved by: W. T. Crow, Section Leader

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