

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 1
TO LICENSE NPF-12
SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

By letter, dated August 18, 1982 South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) requested relief from a portion of Technical Specification 3/4 7.10 regarding fire-rated assemblies for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1. Specifically, relief was requested from the requirement to establish a continuous fire watch in the event that a fire-rated assembly is not operable during that period prior to achieving initial criticality.

SCE&G is currently conducting a comprehensive program which involves the inspection of all fire rated assemblies to assure consistency with the fire protection evaluation. This program was initiated as a result of the discovery of deviations between the fire protection plan and the as-built drawings. SCE&G proposes to institute a one-hour roving fire watch during this period to make more efficient use of its resources.

EVALUATION

Under the action statement for the current Technical Specification, with one or more of the fire-rated assemblies and/or sealing devices inoperable, within one hour a continuous fire watch must be established on at least one side of the affected assembly, or if the fire detectors are inoperable on at least one side of the inoperable assembly, an hourly fire watch patrol may be established in lieu of a continuous fire watch. SCE&G proposes that during the period prior to initial criticality the staff waive the requirement for operable fire detector as a prerequisite for an hourly fire watch patrol. By waiving this requirement SCE&G can employ a roving fire patrol instead of the continuous fire watch required by the current Technical Specification.

Licensing condition C.2(18)(b)(i) requires a two-hour fire patrol prior to initially exceeding 5% of full power, and a one-hour fire patrol thereafter to cover those areas where fire detectors are required but not installed. SCE&G has implemented this licensing condition by conducting a two-hour fire patrol of all accessible areas of the plant that contain safety-related equipment. SCE&G plans to increase this to a one-hour fire patrol. Such a patrol will assure that all areas without operable fire detectors as well as all areas with inoperable fire-rated assemblies are inspected each hour.

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SCE&G states that the justification for this relief is based upon the lack of a radioactive material inventory and residual heat in the reactor and the low probability of an accident during this period.

We agree with the justification provided by SCE&G. Further we conclude that the proposed one-hour fire patrol that will inspect all appropriate areas of the plant will permit a more effective use of SCE&G's resources and at the same time assure an acceptable level of protection during this period.

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

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 accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, 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 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: AUG 20 1982

OFFICE	DL:LB#1	CEB	DL:LB#1				
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DATE	8/19/82	8/19/82	8/29/82				