



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 74 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-68
AND AMENDMENT NO. 53 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-81
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY, ET AL.
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 1, 1994, Georgia Power Company, et al. (the licensee) proposed license amendments to change the Technical Specifications (TS) for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle), Units 1 and 2. The proposed changes would revise TS 3.2.4 "Quadrant Power Tilt Ratio," to add the statement, " d. The provisions of Specification 3.0.4 are not applicable."

2.0 EVALUATION

On March 22, 1993, the NRC staff issued Amendment 59 for Vogtle Unit 1 and Amendment 38 for Vogtle Unit 2. These amendments revised Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of the TS to incorporate changes recommended in Generic Letter 87-09, "Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of the Standard Technical Specifications on the Applicability of Limiting Conditions for Operation and Surveillance Requirements." The changes revised the wording of TS 3.0.4 and deleted from TS 3.2.4 the statement that the provisions of TS 3.0.4 are not applicable. With the revised wording of TS 3.0.4, the statement of the non-applicability of the provisions of TS 3.0.4 was redundant for many specifications, and its deletion caused no change in Action requirements. However, in the case of TS 3.2.4, the deletion had the unforeseen effect of prohibiting power escalation above 50% rated thermal power whenever the quadrant power tilt ratio exceeded 1.02. This unnecessarily delayed power escalation.

The proposed amendment would correct this error and restore the originally intended meaning of TS 3.2.4. The intent of TS 3.2.4 is to permit the escalation of reactor power above 50% rated thermal power for limited times and under specified conditions when the quadrant power tilt ratio is greater than 1.02.

With the original requirements of TS 3.2.4 restored, plant operation and power escalation during startup would be the same as previously approved. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed change to TS 3.2.4, restoring the statement that the provisions of TS 3.0.4 are not applicable, to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Georgia State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve 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 the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (59 FR 17599 dated April 13, 1994). Accordingly, the amendments meet 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 the amendments.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission 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, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: June 1, 1994