



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 64

TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-49

NORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY, ET AL.

MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 3

DOCKET NO. 50-423

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

By letter dated March 28, 1990, as supplemented July 24, 1990, and November 22, 1991, the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO, the licensee), proposed several revisions to Technical Specifications (TS) for Millstone, Unit 3, on emergency diesel generator (EDG) surveillance testing. The licensee introduced these proposed changes for the following reasons:

- * Conformance to Generic Letter (GL) 84-15 in order to improve overall diesel generator reliability and performance.
- * Reduce the diesel generator loading criteria to compensate for instrumentation inaccuracies and meter reading errors in order to ensure that operations at the upper limit of the load band do not lead to overload conditions.
- * The requested changes would modify TS 3/4.8.1 "A.C. Sources" to include provisions to eliminate the fast, cold, repetitive starting of the diesel generators. Additional changes proposed in TS 3/4.8.1 and its Bases concern instrumentation and test standards. In addition, proposed changes clarify the remedial measure for inoperability of the required full capacity battery chargers.

By letter dated November 22, 1991, the licensee withdrew certain changes proposed in the March 25, 1990, letter, specifically, error bands in loading the diesel generator (TS 4.8.1.1.2.a.6), and a target value in surveillance test loading of the diesel generator (TS 4.8.1.1.2.g.7).

2.0 EVALUATION

Specification 3.8.1.1

The licensee proposes to add a footnote denoted by "*" to indicate that the designated test is required to be completed regardless of when the inoperable diesel generator is restored to operability. This change is consistent with the Standardized Technical Specifications (STS) and is acceptable.

The licensee also proposes for Action Statements 3.8.1.1.c, 3.8.1.1.e, and 3.8.1.1.f to add a statement directing the use of either Action Statement a or b as appropriate when only one power source remains inoperable. In addition, a statement is added specifying that a successful test of the diesel generator operability per Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.5 when a diesel generator has been restored to operable status, satisfies the diesel generator test requirement of Action Statement a or b as appropriate. These changes are administrative in nature and do not alter the original intent of the subject Specifications. Therefore, these changes are acceptable.

Action Statement 3.8.1.1.a

This action statement currently addresses either one inoperable offsite circuit or one inoperable diesel generator. The licensee proposes to revise this section to exclusively address one inoperable offsite circuit. In addition, the time required for performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.5, to verify operability of the diesel generators, is being extended from the current time period to initiate action within 1 hour and once every 8 hours thereafter to within 24 hours if the diesel generator had not been successfully tested in the past 24 hours. The staff finds the above TS changes to be in conformance with GL 84-15 and acceptable.

Action Statement: 3.8.1.1.b

The new action statement is added as a result of the proposed change to Action Statement 3.8.1.1.a to address the loss of a diesel generator separate from the loss of an offsite circuit. The licensee also proposes to extend the time required for performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.5, to verify operability of the remaining diesel generator, from the current time period to initiate action within 1 hour and once every 8 hours thereafter to within 24 hours if the diesel generator became inoperable for any cause other than preplanned maintenance and testing. The above TS change is in conformance with STS. The staff finds this change acceptable.

Action Statement 3.8.1.1.c

This action statement addresses one inoperable offsite circuit and one inoperable diesel generator. The licensee proposes to revise this section to extend the time required for performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.5, to verify operability of the remaining diesel generator, from the current time period to initiate action within 1 hour and once every 8 hours thereafter

to within 8 hours if the diesel generator became inoperable for any cause other than preplanned maintenance and testing. The above TS changes are in conformance with SIS. The staff finds these changes acceptable.

Action Statement 3.8.1.1.e

This action statement addresses two inoperable offsite circuits. The licensee proposes to revise this section to extend the time required for performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.5, to verify operability of the two diesel generators, from the current time period to initiate action within 1 hour and once every 8 hours thereafter to within 8 hours. The staff finds the above TS changes to be in conformance with GL 84-15 and acceptable.

Section 4.8.1.1.2

The licensee proposes to add a new footnote to the subject Specification. The footnote denoted by "*" states that the manufacturer's recommendations will be followed for surveillance tests unless otherwise specified by individual surveillance requirements. The subject change does not affect the intent of the original TS, and is therefore acceptable.

Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a

The licensee proposes the following changes to the monthly diesel generator surveillance specification:

Change Specification 4.8.1.1.2.a.5 to gradually accelerate the diesel generator to rated speed and remove the 11-second start time criterion.

The proposed change is consistent with GL 84-15 and is acceptable.

Action Statement 3.8.2.1.b

The proposed change is the same as existing ACTION statement "a" and provides consistency, and also makes clear the need for charger operability if the battery bank is to be considered operable. This change is in the conservative direction and adds consistency. The staff therefore finds this change acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared and published in the Federal Register on March 9, 1992 (57 FR 8369). Accordingly, based upon the

environmental assessment, we have determined that the issuance of the amendment will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

We have reviewed the licensee's submittals and have concluded that the changes for diesel generator surveillance testing meet GL 84-15 guidance and constitute acceptable practices to improve overall diesel generator reliability and performance, and are acceptable.

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 amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: R. V. Jenkins

Date: March 9, 1992