

Docket No. 50-373/374

JUN 7 1984

Mr. Dennis L. Farrar  
Director of Nuclear Licensing  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
P.O. Box 767  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Mr. Farrar:

Subject: Paid Public Notice regarding application dated May 25, 1984

Enclosed is a copy of a paid public notice relating to application dated May 25, 1984 for amendments to the operating licenses for La Salle County Station, Units 1 and 2.

Because of exigent circumstances, time does not allow for normal publication in the Federal Register. The comment period for this notice expires June 22, 1984.

Sincerely,

A. Schwencer, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 2  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Paid Public Notice

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\*See previous concurrence

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At La Salle, the initial setpoint was at 24°F based on design information. However, CECO has found that for normal station operations, the temperature differential has already gone as high as 22°F with no steam leakage. The existing 24°F setpoint can thus be expected to be exceeded causing a spurious trip unless a change is made recognizing normal operating temperature conditions. CECO explained that the proposed change is needed as soon as possible to prevent such spurious trips from causing full steam line isolations and reactor shut downs.

The NRC staff has determined that a timely application for the proposed changes were made and that an exigent circumstances does exist and was not a result of any fault of CECO. The exigent circumstance results from actual normal temperature difference measurements (recently obtained during Unit 2 startup operations) in the steam tunnel being higher than expected and approaching the trip setpoint of 24°F. As Unit 2 proceeds to full power, additional normal heat in the steam tunnel or minor plant ventilation changes may cause the trip setpoint to be exceeded. The original set point was established by theoretical calculations and CECO states that the actual values can be attributed to various factors: 1) lower actual total air flow and different air flow distribution than used in the original calculations, 2) lower inlet air temperatures to the steam tunnel than used in the original calculation, and 3) higher heat transfer rates through the insulation than those used in the theoretical calculations.

Following an initial review of this application, the NRC staff has made a proposed (preliminary) determination that the requested amendments involve no significant hazards consideration under NRC regulations, because the proposed amendments do not involve a significant increase in the

La Salle

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND OPERATING LICENSES AT  
LA SALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has received an application dated May 25, 1984 for amendments to the operating licenses for La Salle County Station, Units 1 and 2 located at the La Salle County, Illinois.

If approved, the amendment would change Technical Specifications Table 3.3.2-2 to increase the main steam line tunnel inlet air to outlet air temperature difference for the trip setpoint  $12^{\circ}\text{F}$  from greater than or equal to  $24^{\circ}\text{F}$  to greater than or equal to  $36^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The allowable value increase  $12^{\circ}\text{F}$ , to greater than or equal to  $42^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The change is proposed to prevent an unintentional full isolation of all main steam lines causing reactor shutdown (trip) with no steam present. The Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo) has requested NRC action as soon as possible because of the new steam tunnel temperatures being obtained from operational startup of Unit 2.

A substantial difference between the outlet and inlet ventilation temperatures for the main steam tunnel is monitored to detect a leak in a main steam line. A high temperature difference signal from this instrumentation is used to isolate all four main steam lines. The isolation trip setpoint is intended to be far enough above the differential temperature expected during normal operation at rated power to avoid spurious isolations yet low enough to cause isolation if there should be a steam line leak.

probability or consequence of an accident, would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of an accident, or involve a significant reduction in a safety margin.

The differential temperature leak detection instrument setpoints as revised would still provide steam line isolation for breaks at or below the break point flow for which isolation is to be provided by design. These instruments are not relied upon in any of the plant accident analyses described in the Final Safety Analysis Report and are only one of several methods for automatic steam line isolation. No equipment will be removed, and the accident analyses are not affected. The original basis for the instrumentation setpoint is not reduced or revised.

The Commission has determined that due to exigent circumstances there is not sufficient time to publish notice in the Federal Register for public comment before issuance of the proposed action.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendments involve no significant hazards considerations becomes final, the staff will issue the amendment without first offering an opportunity for a public hearing. An opportunity for a hearing will be published in the Federal Register at a later date and any hearing request will not delay the effective date of the amendments.

If the staff decides in its final determination that the amendment does involve a significant hazards consideration, a notice of opportunity for a prior hearing will be published in the Federal Register and, if a hearing is granted, it will be held before the amendments are issued.

Comments on the proposed determination on no significant hazards considerations may be telephoned to Albert Schwencer, Chief of Licensing Branch No. 2, by collect call to 301-492-7435, or submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Commission, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch. All comments received by June 22, 1984 will be considered in reaching a final determination. A copy of the application may be examined at the NRC's local public document room located at the Public Library of Illinois Valley Community College, Rural Rout No. 1, Ogelsby, Illinois 61448, and at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.