



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 176 AND 157 TO FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 20, 1994, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would change the Channel Functional Test surveillance frequency for the Manual Reactor trip switches and Reactor Trip Breakers (RTB) and relocate the RTB maintenance requirements from the TS to the Salem Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). In addition to the changes in the surveillance test frequency, there are several editorial and notational changes for consistency and standardization in the nomenclature.

2.0 EVALUATION

Presently the TS for both Salem Units require that channel functional testing of Manual Trip Switches be performed within 24 hours prior to each start-up. The proposed change is to perform the channel functional test only in the refueling outage. This change of test interval reduces the potential for inadvertent actuation of the plant protective system and is in accordance with the new improved Westinghouse Standard Technical Specification, NUREG-1431 and is, therefore, acceptable.

Similarly, the Salem TS require channel functional testing of reactor trip breakers within 24 hours prior to each start-up, once every month, and once every refueling outage. The proposed change deletes the requirement of testing the channel within 24 hours prior to each start-up and changes the channel monthly test requirement to at least every 62 days on a staggered test basis. These changes are also in accordance with NUREG-1431 and are, therefore, acceptable.

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The anticipated transient without scram (ATSW) event that occurred at Salem on February 29, 1983, was primarily caused by inadequate maintenance of the RTBs. The plant TS do not normally include preventive maintenance requirements during power operation. However, in order to improve the RTB reliability and availability, and to minimize the possibility of ATWS recurrence at Salem, the NRC staff required that a semi-annual preventive maintenance of the RTBs be incorporated in the Salem TS. The proposed relocation of the RTB maintenance requirement from the TS to the Salem FSAR will allow flexibility in re-evaluating the effectiveness and adequacy of the maintenance activity and optimize maintenance practice without an unnecessary change of the plant TS and an amendment request by the licensee. The Commission has provided guidance for the contents of TS in its "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors" ("Final Policy Statement"), published in the Federal Register on July 22, 1993 (58 FR 39132), in which the Commission indicated that compliance with the Final Policy Statement satisfies §182a of the Act. In particular, the Commission indicated that certain items could be relocated from the TS to licensee-controlled documents. Consistent with this approach, the Final Policy Statement identified four criteria to be used in determining whether a particular matter is required to be included in the TS.¹ The RTB maintenance requirement does not fall within any of the four criteria set forth in the Commission's Final Policy Statement discussed above. In addition, the staff finds that sufficient regulatory controls exist under 10 CFR 50.59. Accordingly, the staff has concluded that these requirements may be relocated from the TS to the licensee's FSAR.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and change surveillance requirements. 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

¹The Commission recently adopted amendments to 10 CFR 50.36, pursuant to which the rule was revised to codify and incorporate these criteria. See Final Rule, "Technical Specifications," published in the Federal Register July 19, 1995 (60 FR 36953). The Commission indicated that reactor core isolation cooling, isolation condenser, residual heat removal, standby liquid control, and recirculation pump are to be included in the TS under Criterion 4, although it recognized that other structures, systems and components could also meet this criterion. Federal Register citation (60 FR 36956).

proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (59 FR 55890). 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: September 18, 1995