



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO

FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-112

REED COLLEGE

DOCKET NO. 50-288

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated December 5, 1991, Reed College (the licensee) requested a change to Facility License No. R-112 for the Reed College Reactor Facility. The requested change would waive the time periodicity requirements for Technical Specifications surveillances E.3, F.2, and F.9 until completion of the Recovery Plan in response to the Commission's Confirmatory Action Letter of November 25, 1991. However, the requested change would also assure that the surveillance requirements must be completed prior to return to routine reactor operations.

2.0 BACKGROUND

As a result of an Unusual Event on November 23, 1991 due to high radiation indications, the licensee agreed to provide Region V with a Recovery Plan for NRC concurrence prior to implementation of this plan and return to operations. Because of the conditions of the licensee's agreements with Region V in accordance with the Confirmatory Action Letter, certain surveillance requirements can not be satisfied, e.g., visual inspection of the fuel and control rods, and control rod drop times. Therefore, the licensee requested relief from certain surveillance requirements, and indicated that the surveillances would be complete prior to operation "for any purpose not specifically addressed in the Recovery Plan."

3.0 EVALUATION

During the review of the Technical Specifications, the NRC staff determined that in addition to the above described relief, the licensee would need relief from the requirements of section F.10 on annual thermal power calibrations of the linear power level channel. This was confirmed with the licensee and has been incorporated in the evaluation and amendment at the licensee's request.

Because the reactor will not be operated, except as required by the Recovery Plan which will receive NRC concurrence, there will be no transient effects placed on the fuel or core. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that there will be any fuel or control rod degradation, and there is no need for control rod drop or thermal power indication. However, even in the unlikely event of fuel or control rod degradation during the shutdown period, no event would exceed the consequences previously analyzed and accepted for full power operations.

Therefore, the surveillance time periodicity requirements for fuel inspection (Technical Specification E.3), for control rod inspection (Technical Specification F.2), for control rod drop testing (Technical Specification F.9), and for thermal power calibration (Technical Specification F.10) can be acceptably waived until completion of the Recovery Plan.

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves changes in the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes in inspection and surveillance requirements. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite and there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, this amendment meets 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 this amendment.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The staff has concluded, based on the consideration discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously evaluated, or create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, and does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety, 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 the proposed activities, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or the health and safety of the public.

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Date: January 16, 1992