



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 49 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-354

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 17, 1991, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) submitted a request for changes to the Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS), Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would revise the Explosive Gas Mixture and the Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation section in the TS. Specifically, TS 3.11.2.6, ACTION b would be revised to agree with the corresponding ACTION b of TS 3.3.7.11 and ACTION 124 of Table 3.3.7.11-1.

2.0 EVALUATION

The TS for Facility Operating License No. NPF-57 (FOL) for the HCGS were issued in July 1986. The Radiological Effluent Technical Specifications (RETS) were included as part of the Hope Creek TS and were implemented by the licensee upon issuance of the TS. By letter dated September 12, 1986, and supplemented by letters dated September 22, 1986, and November 10, 1986, the licensees requested changes to the RETS incorporated in the TS. The changes were requested to modify TS 3.3.7.9 and TS 3.3.7.10 to be consistent with Revision 2 to the Standard RETS. The changes were approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff (the Staff) in Amendment 2 to the FOL. Subsequently, Amendment 10 to the FOL renumbered TS 3.3.7.9 and TS 3.3.7.10 as 3.3.7.10 and 3.3.7.11, respectively. The content of TS 3.3.7.10 and TS 3.3.7.11 (formerly, TS 3.3.7.9 and TS 3.3.7.10) was not changed by Amendment 10 to the FOL.

The licensees inadvertently omitted TS 3.11.2.6 when they submitted the license amendment request that led to Amendment 2 to the FOL. Therefore, there are currently two HCGS TS that delineate actions required in the event that the main condenser offgas treatment system hydrogen monitors are declared inoperable. The two TS for hydrogen monitors differ slightly in their ACTION statement wording. TS 3.11.2.6, ACTION b states: "With continuous monitors inoperable, operation of the main condenser offgas treatment system may continue for up to 30 days provided grab samples are collected at least once per 4 hours and analyzed within the following 4 hours." As written, this TS would require the licensees to secure discharging through the main condenser offgas treatment system after 30 days even if they are performing grab samples every four hours. This is contrary to the staffs' guidance delineated in NUREG-0473 (Revision 2). TS 3.3.7.11 ACTION b, in conjunction with ACTION 124 of TS TABLE 3.3.7.11-1, also delineates actions to be taken for inoperable

main condenser offgas treatment system hydrogen monitors. TS 3.3.7.11, ACTION b in conjunction with ACTION 124 of TS Table 3.3.7.11-1, contains the same grab sample requirement as does TS 3.11.2.6, ACTION b; however, it does not restrict the discharge to 30 days. Instead of the 30-day restriction, TS 3.3.7.11 states in part: "Exert best efforts to return the instruments to OPERABLE status within 30 days and, if unsuccessful, explain in the next Semiannual Radioactive Effluent Release Report pursuant to Specification 6.9.1.7 why this inoperability was not corrected in a timely manner." This wording in TS 3.3.7.11 was modified by Amendment 2 to the FOL based on the guidance in NUREG-0473 (Revision 2).

The license amendment requested on October 17, 1991, would make the ACTION statement for TS 3.11.2.6, ACTION b agree with the applicable ACTION statements of TS 3.3.7.11. This change will eliminate conflicting requirements for the hydrogen monitoring instrumentation. The licensees' proposed TS amendment is consistent with the intent of the Radiological Effluent Technical Specifications (RETS), namely, that alternative radioactive effluent monitoring techniques are used to assess the effluents should the primary means not be available. The HCGS TS include the hydrogen monitoring instrumentation as part of the Radioactive Effluent monitoring instrumentation.

Based on the staff's review of the licensees' October 17, 1991, submittal and HCGS FOL Amendments 2 and 10, the staff finds that the licensees' proposed TS amendment request corrects an unintentional omission of TS 3.11.2.6, ACTION b when Amendment 2 to the FOL was issued and meets the intent of NUREG-0473 (Revisions 2 and 3). Therefore, the licensees' proposal is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement 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 amendment involves 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 amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (56 FR 57702). Accordingly, the 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 the amendment.

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

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Date: April 1, 1992