



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 73 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-38

ENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3

DOCKET NO. 50-382

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated January 6, 1992, Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3) Technical Specifications (TS). The changes would remove the snubber visual examination schedule in the existing TS and replace it with the refueling-outage-based visual examination schedule from Table 1 of Generic Letter (GL) 90-09, dated December 11, 1990.

2.0 EVALUATION

The snubber visual examination schedule in the existing Technical Specification is based on the permissible number of inoperable snubbers found during the visual examination. Because this schedule is based only on the absolute number of inoperable snubbers found during the visual examinations irrespective of the total population of snubbers, licensees with a large snubber population find the schedule excessively restrictive. The purpose of the alternative visual examination schedule is to allow the licensee to perform visual examinations and take corrective actions during plant outages without reducing the confidence level provided by the existing schedule. The new schedule specifies the permissible number of inoperable snubbers for various snubber populations. The basic examination interval is the normal fuel cycle up to 24 months. Depending on the number of unacceptable snubbers found during the visual examination, this interval may be extended to as long as twice the fuel cycle or reduced to as short as two-thirds of the fuel cycle. The examination interval may vary by ± 24 percent to coincide with the actual outage.

In the event that one or more snubbers are found inoperable during a visual examination, the Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) in the present TS require the licensee to restore the inoperable snubbers to operable status, or replace them, within 72 hours or to declare the attached system inoperable and follow the appropriate action statement for that system. This LCO will remain

in the TS. However, the permissible number of inoperable snubbers and the subsequent visual examination interval will now be determined in accordance with the new visual examination schedule (Table 1 of GL 90-09, dated December 11, 1990). As noted in the guidance for this line item TS improvement, certain corrective actions may have to be performed, depending on the number of inoperable snubbers found. All requirements for corrective actions and evaluations associated with the use of the visual examination schedule and stated in Footnotes 1 through 7 of Table 1 of GL 90-09 shall be included in the TS.

The licensee has proposed changes to Specification 3.14 that are consistent with the guidance provided in GL 90-09 for the replacement of the snubber visual examination schedule with Table 1 (including Footnotes 1 through 7) of GL 90-09. On the basis of its review, the staff finds that the proposed changes to the TS for Waterford 3 are acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Louisiana 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 and changes in surveillance requirements. 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 (57 FR 7811). 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 17, 1992