



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 133 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated December 23, 1991, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request for a change to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station Technical Specifications (TS). The requested change would extend the calibration interval for the high steam line flow instrumentation from quarterly to once each operating cycle.

2.0 EVALUATION

Replacing the existing high steam line flow differential pressure switches with analog loop instrumentation will replace mechanically-actuated components with newer and more reliable equipment. This new instrumentation will maintain the required redundancy and protective functions. The new instrumentation is also environmentally and seismically qualified.

The proposed change in calibration frequency from quarterly to once each operating cycle will continue to meet the intent of Technical Specification requirements for assuring component operability. Experience at Vermont Yankee with similar analog loop instrumentation over the past 11 years has shown this equipment to have an excellent operating history.

Plant safety would be enhanced by reducing the frequency of calibrations to once each operating cycle. This would allow calibration to be performed during shut down, thus minimizing the potential for challenges to plant safety systems during operation.

The requested change to the calibration frequency does not impact any FSAR safety analysis, nor does it involve any change in Technical Specification setpoints, plant operation, protective functions or the design basis of the plant. More reliable protective instrumentation will provide continued assurance that required control and alarm functions are maintained to prevent uncovering the fuel from inventory loss due to a worst case main steam line break.

The proposed change has been reviewed by the Plant Operations Review Committee and the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Safety Unit and Review Committee.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Vermont 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 a surveillance requirement. 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 (FR cite). 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: May 8, 1992