



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 131 AND 135 TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-24 AND DPR-27

WISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 13, 1991, the Wisconsin Electric Power Company (the licensee), requested changes to Technical Specification (TS) 15.3.1-B, Reactor Coolant System, Pressure/Temperature Limits, and the associated Bases. The proposed changes would remove Tables 15.3.1-1 and 15.3.1-2, the reactor vessel materials surveillance capsule removal schedules for Units 1 and 2 respectively, from the TS. The licensee proposes to incorporate these tables into the Point Beach Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) in the next revision. In addition, the licensee will include any subsequent NRC-approved revisions to this schedule in an update of the FSAR. The inclusion of the withdrawal schedule in the FSAR provides a source for this information that is readily available as a reference for NRC inspectors and other staff use. Finally, the surveillance requirements for removing material specimens remain unchanged except for the removal of the reference to Tables 15.3.1-1 and 15.3.1-2.

2.0 EVALUATION

Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 requires that a reactor vessel material surveillance program be maintained in order to prevent brittle fracture of the reactor vessel. Section II.B.3 of this appendix requires that the associated withdrawal schedules be approved prior to their implementation. Having these schedules in the TS duplicates the regulatory controls placed on them by Appendix H. Surveillance requirements will still require that, following removal, these specimens be examined to determine any changes in material properties. The results of these examinations will be used to update temperature and pressure limits. Therefore, there is no need for these schedules to be included in the TS.

Accordingly, the licensee proposes to remove Tables 15.3.1-1 and 15.3.1-2 from the TS and incorporate them into the FSAR in its next revision.

This amendment will not result in any change in specimen withdrawal schedules, and the actions taken subsequent to specimen withdrawal will remain unchanged. The licensee has stated that no physical change to the facility, its systems, or its operation will be made. The proposal changes are consistent with the guidance in Generic Letter 91-01, "Removal of the Schedule for the Withdrawal of Reactor Vessel Material Specimens from Technical Specifications." Controls for governing future changes to the specimen withdrawal schedules shall be provided by 10 CFR, Part 50, Appendix H. The staff has reviewed the proposed changes to TS 15.3.1-B and Bases, and finds them to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

These amendments involve a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 or change an inspection or surveillance requirement. The 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 published a proposed finding that these amendments involve no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding (57 FR 4496). Accordingly, these 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 these amendments.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The staff 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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