



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 45 AND 31 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-87 AND NPF-89

TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY

COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-445 AND 50-446

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated January 5, 1996 (TXX-96007), Texas Utilities Electric Company (TU Electric/the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) (Appendix A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89) for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, (CPSES) Units 1 and 2. The proposed exigent amendments would temporarily change the TSs to revise the requirements for Minimum Channels OPERABLE for Wide Range RCS (Reactor Coolant System) Temp. (Temperature)- T_h remote shutdown indication for CPSES Unit 2. The minimum number of channels required is being revised from one per RCS Loop for each RCS Loop to one per RCS Loop for three of the four RCS Loops. This temporary change is requested as a result of the failure of one of the T_h channels in a manner which cannot be repaired without a unit shutdown and a possible cooldown. These changes are only applicable to CPSES Unit 2 and are being submitted on the CPSES Unit 1 docket for administrative purposes only because the CPSES TSs is a single document which applies to both units.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On December 31, 1995, at 2:10 a.m. CST, the Wide Range RCS Temp.- T_h remote shutdown indication for one RCS Loop was discovered to be inoperable. Licensee troubleshooting efforts indicated a ground located in an area inside containment that is normally only accessible during periods of a reactor shutdown. Radiation levels, temperature and personnel safety considerations preclude further corrective actions without performing a plant shutdown and a possible cooldown. CPSES Unit 2 is scheduled to commence a refueling outage on February 22, 1996. CPSES Unit 2 has no other outages planned prior to the scheduled start of the refueling outage. In accordance with the enforcement discretion granted on January 5, 1996, TU Electric requested a revision to the TS requirement that all four remote shutdown monitoring channels for Wide Range RCS Temp.- T_h be operable. The proposed license amendments revise the requirements to allow operation with one of the four available instruments out of service until CPSES Unit 2 enters Mode 4 at the beginning of the second refueling outage for Unit 2.

Mr. C. Lance Terry
TU Electric Company

Comanche Peak, Units 1 and 2

cc:
Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 1029
Granbury, TX 76048

Honorable Dale McPherson
County Judge
P. O. Box 851
Glen Rose, TX 76043

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

Office of the Governor
ATTN: Susan Rieff, Director
Environmental Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Mrs. Juanita Ellis, President
Citizens Association for Sound Energy
1426 South Polk
Dallas, TX 75224

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

Mr. Roger D. Walker, Manager
Regulatory Affairs for Nuclear
Engineering Organization
Texas Utilities Electric Company
1601 Bryan Street, 12th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201-3411

Texas Utilities Electric Company
c/o Bethesda Licensing
3 Metro Center, Suite 610
Bethesda, MD 20814

George L. Edgar, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

fire shutdown, the remaining three T_h indicators allow RCS hot leg temperature to be monitored during a plant cooldown.

The subject T_h instrument is part of the CPSES design for shutdown from outside the control room CPSES Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) section 7.4.1.3. The Wide Range RCS Temperature indication is used in a remote shutdown situation for verification of natural circulation, verification of adequate RCS sub-cooling, and for verifying that RCS temperature is adequate for initializing Residual Heat Removal (RHR) cooling. In the unlikely event that shutdown from outside the control room, the inoperability of Wide Range Temp.- T_h for a single RCS Loop is expected to have no measurable impact on the ability of the operators to safely cooldown the RCS and establish RHR cooling. The staff finds that a loss of a single loop T_h indicator would have minimal safety significance should use of the HSP be required during this period and therefore, the proposed change is acceptable.

4.0 EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES

The Commission's regulation, 10 CFR 50.91, contain provisions for issuance of amendments when the usual 30-day public notice period cannot be met. One type of special exception is an exigency. An exigency is a case where the staff and licensee need to act promptly and the staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant hazards considerations.

Under such circumstances, the Commission notifies the public in one of two ways: by issuing a Federal Register notice providing an opportunity for hearing and allowing at least two weeks for prior public comments, or by issuing a press release discussing the proposed changes, using the local media. In this case, the Commission used the first approach.

The licensee identified on December 31, 1995, at 2:10 a.m. CST, the Wide Range RCS Temp.- T_h remote shutdown indication for one RCS Loop was inoperable. Licensee troubleshooting efforts indicated a ground located in an area inside containment that is normally only accessible during periods of a reactor shutdown. Radiation levels, temperature and personnel safety considerations preclude further corrective actions without performing a plant shutdown and a possible cooldown. CPSES Unit 2 is scheduled to commence a refueling outage on February 22, 1996. CPSES Unit 2 has no other outages planned prior to the scheduled start of the refueling outage.

In their request for enforcement discretion dated January 5, 1996, TU Electric proposed a revision to the TS requirement that all four remote shutdown monitoring channels for Wide Range RCS temp.- T_h be operable. The proposed license amendments revise the requirements to allow operation with one of the four available instruments out of service until CPSES Unit 2 enters Mode 4 at the beginning of its second refueling outage. The content of the proposed TS was considered in granting the NOED.

The licensee submitted the request for amendments on January 5, 1996, in accordance with the enforcement discretion request. The amendments were noticed in the Federal Register on January 22, 1996 (61 FR 1651), at which



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February 2, 1996

Mr. C. Lance Terry
Group Vice President, Nuclear
TU Electric
Energy Plaza
1601 Bryan Street, 12th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201-3411

SUBJECT: COMANCHE PEAK STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - AMENDMENT
NOS. 45 AND 31 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-87 AND NPF-89
(TAC NOS. M94411 AND M94412)

Dear Mr. Terry:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 45 and 31 to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-87 and NPF-89 for the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, (CPSES) Units 1 and 2. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated January 5, 1996 (TXX-96007).

The proposed exigent amendments would temporarily change the TSs to revise the requirements for Minimum Channels OPERABLE for Wide Range RCS (Reactor Coolant System) Temp. (Temperature)- T_h remote shutdown indication for CPSES Unit 2. The minimum number of channels required is being revised from one per RCS Loop for each RCS Loop to one per RCS Loop for three of the four RCS Loops. This temporary change is requested as a result of the failure of one of the T_h channels in a manner which cannot be repaired without a unit shutdown and a possible cooldown. The NRC granted enforcement discretion on January 5, 1996, to allow the facility to continue operation while this exigent TS is processed. These changes are only applicable to CPSES Unit 2 and are being submitted on the CPSES Unit 1 docket for administrative purposes only because the CPSES TSs is a single document which applies to both units.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Polich, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 45 to NPF-87
2. Amendment No. 31 to NPF-89
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

introduced and the proposed change to the TSs will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The license amendments do not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety. The Wide Range Hot Leg RCS Temperature indication at the HSP is only required in the event that a remote shutdown from outside the control room is needed. The availability of other remote shutdown indications (including T_c , T_h in other RCS Loops, and steam generator pressure) in combination with licensed operators who have been briefed on how to compensate for an inoperable T_h for one RCS Loop using these other indications, assures that the increased unavailability of the instrument will not have a significant effect in the margin of safety.

Based upon the above considerations, the staff concludes that the amendments meet the three criteria of 10 CFR 50.92. Therefore, the staff has made a final determination that the proposed amendments do not involve a significant hazards consideration.

6.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change 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 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 issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (61 FR 1651). Accordingly, the 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 the amendments.

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

Principal Contributor: Timothy Polich

Date: February 2, 1996

