



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 148 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20
CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY
PALISADES PLANT
DOCKET NO. 50-255

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated June 13, 1991, Consumers Power Company (the licensee) requested amendment to the Technical Specifications (TS) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 for the Palisades Plant. The proposed amendment revises Technical Specification, Sections 4.16.1a and 4.16.1b in response to Generic Letter 90-09, "Alternate Requirements For Snubber Visual Inspection Intervals and Corrective Actions," which provided an alternate schedule for visual inspections for snubbers. The sections were revised per the guidance provided in Generic Letter 90-09.

2.0 EVALUATION

The current TS schedule for snubber visual inspection is based on the number of inoperable snubbers found during the previous visual inspection. Because the current schedule is based only on the number of inoperable snubbers found during the previous visual inspection, irrespective of the size of the snubber population, licensees having a large number of snubbers find that the visual inspection schedule is excessively restrictive. Some licensees have spent a significant amount of resources and have subjected plant personnel to unnecessary radiological exposure to comply with the visual examination requirements.

To alleviate this situation, the staff developed an alternate schedule for visual inspection in Generic Letter 90-09 that maintains the same confidence level as the existing schedule and generally will allow the snubber visual inspections and corrective actions to be performed during plant outages. In addition, the implementation of the proposed alternative schedule will allow for less frequent snubber inspections, provided the results of ongoing inspections are favorable. The alternate inspection schedule is based on the number of unacceptable snubbers found during the previous inspection, the total snubber category size, and the previous inspection interval.

Because this line-item TS improvement will reduce future occupational radiation exposure and is highly cost-effective, the alternate inspection schedule is consistent with the Commission's policy statement on TS improvements.

Licensee's request dated June 13, 1991, did not address a provision of the generic letter that stated the first inspection interval determined using this criteria shall be based upon the previous inspection interval as established by the program in effect at the time of this amendment. Discussions with licensee's licensing staff on February 14, 1992, confirmed that the first inspection interval will be based upon the inspection interval in effect at the time of this amendment.

The proposed changes to the Palisades TS are being implemented in response to GL 90-09 and are consistent with the guidance in GL 90-09. We, therefore, find the changes to TS Sections 4.16.1a and 4.16.1b acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Michigan 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 the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and a change in a surveillance requirement. The 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 this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding (56 FR 41578). Accordingly, this 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 this amendment.

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 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: June 12, 1992