

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.DOCKET NO. 50-416NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS  
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-29, issued to Energy Operations, Inc. (the licensee), for operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1, located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

The proposed amendment would increase the trip setpoints of four circuit breakers for the suppression pool assembly (SPMU) valves.

In response to NRC Generic Letter 89-10, the licensee has identified the need to replace four valve actuators for the SPMU valves with larger actuators. During the design change process, it was determined that the required larger valve actuator motors would require circuit breakers with higher trip setpoints. These trip setpoints are specified in the Technical Specification (TS), and the licensee must request a TS change to permit the use of the higher trip setpoints. Allowing for the standard 30-day Federal Register notice would delay approval of the requested change beyond the scheduled end of the current refueling outage. The staff concludes that the licensee has provided an acceptable basis for its request and that exigent circumstances exist.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

- a. No significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated results from this change.

The breakers for which the trip setpoints are requested to be changed are addressed in Technical Specification 3.8.4.1 as primary containment penetration conductor overcurrent protective devices. The Suppression Pool Makeup (SPMU) system initiation logic will not be affected by this change. The breakers currently installed are to be replaced with breakers sized to account for the increased size of the valve actuator motors to be installed.

The replacement of the overcurrent protective devices to account for the larger valve actuator motors ensures that the equipment will operate without inadvertent actuation of the protective devices. Spurious trip avoidance for these devices is based on the valve actuator motors' inrush current as well as valve stroke times and motor running currents. The proposed trip setpoints are high enough to prevent spurious tripping of the breakers while providing protection of the penetrations in accordance with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.63, Revision 0. Proper coordination is maintained between the primary and backup penetration overcurrent protection and the penetration conductors.

The increased load placed by the larger valve actuator motor has been evaluated and found to have no adverse impact on the electrical distribution system.

Based on the above analysis increasing the trip setpoints for these breakers will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of a previously analyzed accident.

- b. The change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed.

The replacement of the overcurrent protective devices to account for the larger valve actuator motors ensures that the equipment will operate without inadvertent actuation of the protective devices. Spurious trip avoidance for these devices is based on the valve actuator motors' inrush current as well as valve stroke times and motor running currents. The proposed trip setpoints are high enough to prevent spurious tripping of the breakers while providing protection of the penetrations in accordance with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.63, Revisior 0. Proper coordination is maintained between the primary and backup penetration overcurrent protection and the penetration conductors.

The Suppression Pool Makeup (SPMU) system initiation logic will not be affected by this change. Therefore, operating the plant with the proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

- c. This change will not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

Implementation of this change to the breakers' trip setpoint will not reduce the margin of safety as defined in the basis for any technical specification. The Bases for Technical Specification 3/4.6.3 address the function and operability requirements of the SPMU system. The modifications being made will enhance the reliability of the SPMU system by providing actuators which are capable of delivering the torque required to stroke the valves against the design differential pressure and flow rate, following a Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA), without exceeding the actuator manufacturer's design torque rating for the actuators.

The Bases for Technical Specification 3/4.6.3 also address the fact that the SPMU system initiation logic is bypassed when the reactor mode switch is in the REFUEL position. This design change makes no changes to the SPMU system initiation logic. The adequacy of protection of primary containment electrical penetrations and penetration conductors as addressed by Bases for Technical

Specification 3/4.8.4 will not be affected by the modification. The change to the overcurrent protective device trip setpoint will ensure that proper coordination is maintained for equipment operation and protection.

Therefore, these modifications will not reduce the margin of safety as defined in the basis for any technical specification.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within fifteen (15) days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room P-223, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By May 28, 1992, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555 and at the local public document room located at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, Post Office Box 1406, S. Commerce at Washington, Natchez, Mississippi 39120.

If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding;



(2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which maybe entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would

entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contentions will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendment is issued before the expiration of 30-days, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 15-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 15-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider

all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 325-6000 (in Missouri 1-(800)-342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to John T. Larkins, Director, Project Directorate IV-1: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esquire, Winston and Strawn, 1400 L Street, NW., 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-3502, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the

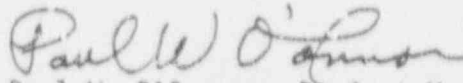


presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated May 6, 1992, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room, located at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, Post Office Box 1406, S. Commerce at Washington, Natchez, Mississippi 39120.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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