



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO.145 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

PALISADES PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-255

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 30, 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 would change the Variable High Power Trip (VHPT) reset margin from 10% to 15%. The VHPT is incorporated in the reactor protection system to provide a reactor trip for transients exhibiting a core power increase from any initial power level. This change would not alter the trip set point range over which the VHPT functions, i.e., 30% of rated power to 106.5% of rated power for four reactor coolant pumps (RCPs) operating and 15% to 48% for three RCPs operating.

2.0 EVALUATION

Technical justification for the proposed TS change is contained in a plant specific topical report, ANF-90-181 which was included in the licensee's submittal. ANF-90-181 addresses the impact of the proposed TS change on all Standard Review Plan (SRP) Chapter 15 events for Palisades. Most events are dispositioned as either not applicable (e.g., boiling water reactor event only), or bounded by other Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) analyses. Two events were reanalyzed with the revised VHPT set points: 15.4.2 (UFSAR 14.2.2.3), "Uncontrolled Control Rod Bank Withdrawal at Power Operation Conditions," and 15.4.3(5) (UFSAR 14.2.2.4), "Control Rod Misoperation - Single Control Rod Withdrawal." The analyses for these events were performed with approved Advanced Nuclear Fuels Corporation (ANF, now Siemens Nuclear Power Corporation, SNP) methodologies and demonstrated that the acceptance criteria regarding minimum departure from nucleate boiling ratio (MDNBR) and peak linear heat rate (LHR) are met assuming the revised VHPT set points. We find the justification for the revised VHPT set points acceptable based on reference to acceptable analyses performed using methodologies approved by the NRC staff.

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. 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 41577). 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: May 18, 1992