



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 97 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35  
AND AMENDMENT NO. 91 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52  
DUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL.  
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 11, 1992, the Duke Power Company (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would change Surveillance Requirements 4.7.13.2a and 4.7.13.2b such that they would agree with the recommendations contained in IEEE Standard 1106-1987 (Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Nickel-Cadmium Storage Batteries for Generating Stations and Substations). A nickel-cadmium 24-volt battery bank is utilized for starting the Standby Shutdown Facility (SSF) diesel generator at Catawba.

The licensee's proposed change of TS 4.7.13.2a.1 would verify that the battery electrolyte level is at or between the low and high marks instead of above the battery plates. The proposed change of TS 4.7.13.2a.2 is required to clarify that the overall battery voltage should be verified to be greater than or equal to 24 volts while the battery is on float charge. Finally, the proposed change of TS 4.7.13.2b is required to delete the specific gravity check for the battery and replace it with a requirement to verify acceptable individual battery cell voltage while the battery is on float charge.

2.0 EVALUATION

The Electrical Systems Branch (SELB) has reviewed the proposed changes, and finds them to be acceptable. The proposed Technical Specification (TS) changes and our evaluation of these changes are as follows:

The licensee has added the following surveillance requirements for Catawba Units 1 and 2.

Change 1: Under Specification 4.7.13.2a.1 (Units 1 and 2), add "at or above the low mark and at or below the high mark." This is more specific and more restrictive since it requires the level to be maintained within a more precisely defined range.

This TS change is consistent with IEEE Standard 1106-1987.

Change 2: Under Specification 4.7.13.2a.2 (Units 1 and 2), add "on float charge."

This TS change is consistent with an industry recognized Standard for this specific type of battery (IEEE Standard 1106-1987).

Change 3: Under Specification 4.7.13.2b (Units 1 and 2), add "individual cell voltage is greater than or equal to 1.36 volts on float charge." Delete "specific gravity is appropriate for continued service of the battery," since it is not a meaningful test parameter for this specific type of battery.

This TS change is consistent with IEEE Standard 1106-1987 and is more consistent with the design characteristics of this type of battery.

The staff concludes that these changes will increase the assurance that the batteries for the standby shutdown facility (SSF) diesel generator will be appropriately maintained in accordance with a recognized industry standard and in accordance with the design characteristics of the battery. This will in turn enhance the capability of the SSF to provide an alternate means to achieve and maintain a hot standby condition should it be required to do so. Therefore, the staff finds the proposed changes acceptable.

### 3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change surveillance requirements. 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 (57 FR 18173). 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.

5.0 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.

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Date: June 18, 1992