



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 149 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

PALISADES PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-255

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 11, 1990, 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 modify the Palisades Technical Specifications (TS) Section 4.1.1.a.4 to change the testing requirements of the Pressurizer Power Operated Relief Valves (PORV) from ASME Code, Section XI, Category C to Category B.

2.0 EVALUATION

Palisades Technical Specification Section 4.1.1.a.4 currently requires that each PORV be tested in accordance with the inservice inspection requirements for Category C valves as defined in the 1983 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI. Category C valves are defined in code article IWV-2200, as "...valves which are self-actuating in response to some system characteristic, such as pressure (relief valves) or flow direction (check valves)." The PORV's at the Palisades Plant were originally defined as Category C valves based on their function as pressure relief valves and were tested as required by article IWV-3500.

Classification of the PORV's as Category C valves is incorrect in that they are actuated via an external signal rather than being self-actuating as defined by the ASME Code. The NRC position is that the classification of the PORV's should be Category B. Under this classification the valves will be tested in accordance with the requirements of ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, subsection IWV, paragraph IWV-3400. This testing schedule is significantly more conservative than the testing currently required by the plant technical specifications and is 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.

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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 received 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 (55 FR 49447). 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 19, 1992