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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 29 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-75

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY, AND
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATION STATION, UNIT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-311

Introduction

On January 27, 1983, the Commission issued Amendment 17 to the Salem, Unit 2, Generating Station Facility Operating License modifying License Condition 2.C.15(b) to allow the licensee to delay the required installation of upper inspection ports in the steam generators until the second refueling outage. By letter dated September 29, 1983 the licensee requested that the requirement to install upper inspection ports be deleted.

Evaluation and Summary

Our original basis for the installation of steam generator upper inspection ports was to facilitate the evaluation and monitoring of the effects of denting in the upper portion of the steam generator tubes. However, experience has shown that visual inspection of the uppermost support plate U-bend transition area of the inner row tubes is no longer necessary. Denting usually takes place initially on the inlet side of the steam generator in the lower part of the tube bundle. The onset denting therefore, could be visually detected earlier in this area through the lower inspection

ports. In addition, the current state-of-the-art of nondestructive inspection methods such as eddy current testing, profilometry and tube gaging are more effective than visual inspection for the early detection and monitoring of denting. Another factor against the installation of upper inspection ports is that it is desirable to minimize the number of penetrations in the steam generator vessels so as not to provide the opportunity to introduce potential foreign objects into the secondary side. In the future, if degradation takes place in the upper steam generator region and inspection ports are deemed necessary, it can be installed then.

Based on the above, we find that there is no longer a necessity for the installation of upper inspection ports in the absence of active degradation mechanisms in the upper tube bundle. Therefore, we recommend that the licensing condition 2.C.15 (b) be removed from the Salem Generating Station Unit 2, Facility Operating Licensee.

Environmental Consideration

This amendment involves a change in 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. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Sec 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.

Conclusion

We have 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, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: February 7, 1985

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