



SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 51 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-2
AND AMENDMENT NO. 42 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-8

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY

JOSEPH M. FARLEY NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-348 AND 50-364

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 17, 1984, Alabama Power Company (the licensee) requested a change to Technical Specification surveillance requirements for the auxiliary feedwater system. Specification 4.7.1.2.2 sets forth surveillance requirements to demonstrate that each feedwater pump is operable including the positioning of automatic valves in the flow path to each steam generator. As a consequence of subsequent changes, the auxiliary feedwater control valves were modified from normally closed to normally open. Due to an administrative oversight, these valves were not placed in a closed position prior to the previous surveillance test to verify the automatic opening feature of these valves. The Technical Specification stipulates a surveillance frequency of 18 months with a grace period of plus 25% or 4.5 months as the time limit for which operability may be assumed based on performance of the surveillance test. If the surveillance test is not repeated prior to the expiration of this time limit, a limiting condition for continued plant operation would be exceeded.

The licensee notes that the surveillance requirements are specific in that it is stipulated that the tests are to be conducted during shutdown at

the frequency of at least once per 18 months. However, the licensee has determined that the surveillance test could be performed during plant operation. Therefore, the licensee has proposed that the plant Technical Specification be modified deleting the requirement that this surveillance test must be performed during plant shut down. This change would then allow the test to be performed during plant operation and negate the necessity of a plant shutdown for the sole purpose of satisfying the surveillance requirement.

EVALUATION

Surveillance tests to demonstrate the operability of the auxiliary feed-water pumps are included under specification 4.7.1.2.2. Item b. identifies four separate surveillance tests to be performed at least once per 18 months during plant shutdown. Item b.1 includes verification that each valve in the flow path actuates to its correct position on an automatic pump start signal. Items b.2, b.3, and b.4 include verification of automatic starting of motor and turbine driver pumps and operability tests of the turbine drive pump steam admission valves when air is supplied from their respective air accumulators. The fact that Item b. notes that these tests are to be conducted during a plant shutdown is more the result of the practicality of desired plant conditions for the conduct of these tests rather than a specific requirement essential to the validity of the test in demonstrating system operability. Further, the frequency of 18 months coincides with normal frequency of plant shutdown for refueling.

The licensee has proposed that the stipulation that testing for item b.1 be modified to eliminate the necessity that the plant be shutdown for the conduct of this test.

SAFETY SUMMARY

Since this is an administrative change that does not alter the required test frequency nor impact the validity of the surveillance requirement, we find that the proposed change is acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

These amendments involve a change in the installation or use of the facilities components located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR 20. The staff has determined that these 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 occupation radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that these amendments involve no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, these amendments 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 these amendments.

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 these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: October 17, 1934

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR:

T. Dunning