



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 143 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35
AND AMENDMENT NO. 137 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 January 11, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated April 2, 1996, Duke Power Company, et al. (the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would revise TS Table 3.6-1, Table 3.6-2a and Table 3.6-2b to delete references to process penetration M308 and service water system (RN) valves RN-429A and RN-432B from the lists of secondary containment bypass valves and containment isolation valves. The RN valves are no longer in service and are planned to be removed in forthcoming outages. The penetration will then be capped with blank flanges. The April 2, 1996, letter provided additional information that did not change the scope of the January 11, 1996, application and the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 EVALUATION

A modification to the plant design has changed the upper containment ventilation unit's (UCVU) normal cooling supply from the nuclear service raw water system (RN) to the containment cooling chilled water system (YV). The involved penetration M308 piping and service water inside and outside isolation valves, RN-429A and RN-432B, no longer serve a useful purpose in supplying cooling water to the UCVUs. The licensee plans to remove the isolation valves, associated wiring and control room instrumentation, and cut and cap tubing providing containment valve injection water to these valves during forthcoming outages on Units 1 and 2. The licensee will then cap the remaining section of penetration piping on each end with removable blank flanges. The penetration will then become a Type B penetration for containment leakage testing purposes and a test connection will be provided for the required post-modification test, the periodic Type B test and subsequent tests following further use of the penetration.

The staff finds that given the change in the intended usage of the penetration and its associated components, and the provisions to include the penetration in the containment leakage Type B testing program, it is no longer appropriate to maintain the requirement for isolation valve stroke time testing for the RN-429A and RN-432B valves in Tables 3.6-2a and 3.6-2b, and it is no longer necessary to maintain the requirement for Type C testing of penetration M308 in TS Table 3.5-1. Therefore, the licensee's proposal to make these changes to the TS is 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 requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 (61 FR 5813 dated February 14, 1996). 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: April 23, 1996