



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 195 AND 178 TO FACILITY OPERATING  
LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75  
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY  
PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY  
DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY  
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 31, 1997, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would replace the existing requirement to average the temperatures at any 5 of 10 listed locations within the containment with the requirement to verify that the average containment temperature is within the limit (i.e.,  $\leq 120^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The containment average air temperature is required to be taken daily (in Modes 1 through 4) to ensure it does not exceed the initial temperature condition assumed in the applicable design basis accident analyses. Currently, TS surveillance requirement 4.6.1.5 lists 10 sample locations and requires that the temperatures at any 5 of these locations be averaged once per 24 hours to verify the containment average temperature is acceptable. However, the licensee has determined that a representative average may not be obtained if "any" five samples are used as currently allowed by the TSs. This situation was discovered by the licensee and subsequently reported in Licensee Event Report 272/95-004-00 on May 18, 1995. To correct this TS weakness, the licensee specified (in a procedure) the acceptable sample locations that had to be used (thus ensuring a representative sample is obtained). However, the licensee has since reevaluated this issue and determined it would be more appropriate to revise the TSs to correct this shortcoming.

### 3.0 EVALUATION

Due to giving plant operators a choice of 5 out of 10 sample locations, verbatim compliance with current TS surveillance requirement 4.6.1.5 could lead to inaccurate containment average temperature determinations. To correct this problem, the licensee is proposing to revise TS surveillance 4.6.1.5 to state:

Verify containment average air temperature is within limit at least once per twenty four hours.

The staff's guidance for containment air temperature surveillance requirements for Westinghouse plants is contained in NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications, Westinghouse Plants," Rev. 1, April 1995 (NUREG-1431). The recommended wording in NUREG-1431 is:

Verify containment average air temperature is within limit [every 24 hours].

The licensee's proposed TS surveillance requirement 4.6.1.5 is consistent with the staff's recommended applicable NUREG-1431 wording. Also, as discussed above, the purpose of this TS surveillance requirement is to maintain the validity of the applicable design basis accident analyses by ensuring the containment temperature assumptions used in the analyses are not exceeded. The licensee's proposed wording for TS surveillance requirement 4.6.1.5 provides more appropriate wording for ensuring that the applicable design basis accident analysis assumptions will not be exceeded (by ensuring the sample consistently represents the containment average temperature). Therefore, the licensee's proposal to revise the wording of TS surveillance requirement 4.6.1.5 is acceptable.

The licensee also proposed to revise the TS Bases by adding the following statement:

In order to determine the containment average air temperature an average is calculated using measurements taken at locations within containment selected to provide a representative sample of the overall containment atmosphere.

The licensee's proposed TS Bases wording is consistent with the staff's recommendations in bases section B 3.6.5A of NUREG-1431 and is therefore acceptable.

### 4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change the 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 (62 FR 11497). 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.

## 6.0 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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