



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 116 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
DOCKET NO. 50-298

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 29, 1987, the Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License NO. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station. The proposed amendment would change the Technical Specifications to lengthen the diesel generator inspection interval from annually to 18 months.

2.0 DISCUSSION

Cooper Nuclear Station has two 4000 KW Cooper-Bessemer diesel generators serving as sources of standby electric power for Engineered Safety Features. Paragraph 4.9.A.2.f of the Cooper Technical Specifications (TS) requires that each diesel generator be inspected annually in accordance with vendor recommendations. These inspections, in conjunction with other periodic tests, are intended to verify the operability and reliability of the diesel generators.

Because a diesel generator is rendered inoperable during the course of an inspection, it is desirable that the periodic inspections be conducted during refueling outages. At the time Cooper was licensed, the Cooper TS were written to reflect an expected annual refueling outage schedule. The TS therefore call for annual diesel testing. However, over recent years many facilities including Cooper have developed long operating cycles. The licensee has requested that the TS for diesel testing be extended to 18 months so that the diesels may be tested during refueling outages. The interval for diesel testing currently specified in the "Standard Technical specifications for BWRs", NUREG-0123, is 18 months. An 18 month interval permits the inspections to be conducted during refueling and is within the usual testing interval for such diesel generators. For the Cooper facility, the licensee contacted the diesel manufacturer to verify that, conducting the tests at 18 month intervals instead of 12 month intervals will not have an adverse affect on diesel reliability. The diesel engine vendor has stated that this action will have no adverse affect on the engines. The staff concurs in this statement. The proposed amendment is therefore acceptable.

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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This amendment changes a requirement with respect to 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 the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the 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 the amendment.

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

Date: February 17, 1988

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