

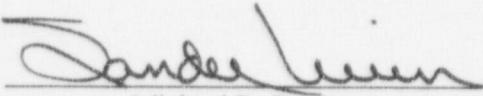
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Facility License No. DPR-16

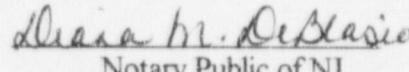
Technical Specification Change Request No. 259
Docket No. 50-219

Applicant hereby submits a change to Appendix A Technical Specification pages 3.4-3 and 3.5-2.

By:


Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 3rd day of September, 1998.


DIANA M. DEBLASIO
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
#6 Commission Expires 6/13/2001

Attachment 1

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Technical Specification Change Request No. 259

I. Change Requested

GPU Nuclear requests that Appendix A Technical Specification (TS) pages 3.4-3 and 3.5-2 be revised to reflect a Condensate Storage Tank level limit of greater than 35 feet.

II. Discussion of Proposed Change

TS 3.4.A.10 addresses conditions under which the core spray system is not required to be operable. TS 3.4.A.10.e specifies, among other conditions, that "... the condensate storage tank level is greater than thirty (30) feet (360,000 gallons)...". In a similar manner, TS 3.5.A.2 addresses conditions under which maintenance and repair, including draining of the suppression pool, may be performed. TS 3.5.A.2.e specifies, among other conditions, that "... the condensate storage tank level is greater than thirty (30) feet (360,000 gallons)...". In addition, both TS 3.4.A.10.e and TS 3.5.A.2.e contain the following provision "NOTE: When filling the reactor cavity from the condensate storage tank and draining the reactor cavity to the condensate storage tank, the 30 foot limit does not apply provided there is a sufficient amount of water to complete the flooding operation."

A discrepancy between the referenced water volume of 360,000 gallons and the specified tank level limit of greater than 30 feet has been identified. Compliance with the 30-foot limit does not ensure that 360,000 gallons will be available for use in the tank. The current tank level limit is based on an incorrect tank capacity value (i.e. gallons/foot) and, in addition, does not account for the unusable tank volume due to nozzle location above the tank bottom nor the minimum suction pipe submergence requirements when considering vortexing. Consequently, the condensate storage tank level limit must be changed to account for these discrepancies.

Accordingly, GPU Nuclear is proposing to change TS 3.4.A.10.e and TS 3.5.A.2.e such that the condensate storage tank level limit must be greater than 35 feet.

III. Safety Assessment

The current Technical Specifications permit the core spray system to be inoperable and allows for torus repairs and inspections, provided certain conditions are met. germane to this discussion is the requirement to maintain greater than 360,000 gallons of water in the condensate storage tank. The 360,000 gallons of water serves as a makeup source and, in addition, constitutes a portion (along with the reactor vessel inventory) of the water volume necessary to assure that the core spray system will function to replace any water lost through a postulated reactor vessel leak. Sufficient water inventory is provided to fill the bottom of the drywell, spill into the torus and to be recirculated back to the reactor through the core spray system.

GPU Nuclear has performed a calculation that demonstrates 360,000 gallons of water are available for use when the condensate storage tank level is greater than 35 feet. As a result, Technical Specification Change Request (TSCR) No. 259 requests that the condensate storage tank level requirement for TS 3.4.A.10.e and TS 3.5.A.2.e be changed from the current 30 foot limit to a 35 foot limit. The proposed change does not affect the volume of water required to be available, the conditions under which it must be available nor the manner in which it will be used.

Based on the above, it is concluded that the proposed change does not adversely affect nuclear safety or safe plant operations.

IV. Information Supporting a Finding of No Significant Hazards Consideration

GPU Nuclear has concluded that the proposed change to alter the condensate storage tank level requirement for TS 3.4.A.10.e and TS 3.5.A.2.e does not involve a Significant Hazards Consideration. In support of this determination, an evaluation of each of the three (3) standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92 is provided below.

1. The proposed TS change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed change does not alter the design or function of any structures, systems or components and does not affect any of the parameters or conditions that could contribute to initiation of any accidents.

The proposed change eliminates an inconsistency between the noted tank level and required water volume and, thereby, ensures 360,000 gallons of water are available for use. The proposed change does not affect the volume of water required to be available, the conditions under which it must be available nor the manner in which it will be used. Therefore, the proposed TS change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed TS change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

Eliminating an inconsistency between the noted tank level and the required water volume does not alter the design or function of any structures, systems or components. The proposed tank level requirement is within the design parameters of the tank and, as such, does not introduce any new mechanisms which could contribute to the creation of a new or different kind of accident than previously evaluated.

3. The proposed TS changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed change eliminates an inconsistency between the noted tank level and required water volume. The proposed change ensures that an adequate makeup source is available and, in addition, that sufficient water volume is available to support operation of the core spray system in the event of a reactor vessel leak. Therefore, the proposed TS change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

V. Information Supporting an Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment is not required for the proposed change since the proposed change conforms to the criteria for "actions eligible for categorical exclusion" as specified in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). The proposed change will have no impact on the environment. The proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration as discussed in the preceding section. The proposed change does not involve a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite. In addition, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

VI. Conclusion

The proposed changes have been reviewed in accordance with Section 6.5 of the Oyster Creek Technical Specifications and it has been concluded there are no unreviewed safety questions. As discussed above, using the standards in 10 CFR 50.92, GPU Nuclear has determined that there are no Significant Hazards Considerations involved with the proposed changes.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

It is requested that the amendment authorizing this change become effective upon issuance.