



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 28 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-43

DETROIT EDISON COMPANY

WOLVERINE POWER SUPPLY COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED

FERMI-2

DOCKET NO. 50-341

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 30, 1987, the Detroit Edison Company (DECo or the licensee) requested an amendment to the Technical Specifications (TSs) appended to Facility Operating License No. NPF-43 for Fermi-2. The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specification 3/4.3.7.5, Table 3.3.7.5-1, Accident Monitoring Instrumentation, to require that a minimum of two channels, instead of one channel, be operable for the Standby Gas Treatment System (SGTS) Radiation Monitors (i.e., requiring one channel per flow path to be operable) to ensure that appropriate compensatory actions are taken to preclude conditions which have the potential for allowing unmonitored release of noble gases. In addition, the proposed amendment would revise: (1) the associated Action Statement 81 in Table 3.3.7.5-1 for the SGTS Radiation Monitors and Containment High Range Radiation Monitor to extend the time period before the licensees are required to submit a Special Report to the Commission (pursuant to Section 6.9.2 of the Technical Specifications) as recommended in NRC Generic Letter 83-36; and (2) make appropriate changes in the Technical Specification Bases for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation as a result of the change. While Generic Letter 83-36 preceded the license issuance, the Fermi-2 TSs were under development in parallel with the Generic Letter. Due to an omission, this change was not incorporated into the TSs issued with the Fermi-2 license.

2.0 EVALUATION

The SGTS radiation monitoring system measures the radioactivity in the exhaust vent lines from the SGTS after an accident has occurred and prior to discharge to the environment. The current Fermi-2 Technical Specifications require only one channel to be operable out of a total number of two channels. The licensee determined that requiring only one channel operable out of a total of two channels presents a condition which has the potential for allowing unmonitored releases because the Fermi-2 design has two redundant flow paths which exhaust via a single vent stack to the environment. Each of the SGTS flow paths has a dedicated accident range noble gas monitor, and should that monitor become inoperable, the associated SGTS flow path would not be monitored.

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The intent of Technical Specification 3.3.7.5 is to take compensatory measures within 72 hours when no accident range radiation monitor is available in the operable SGTS flow path.

This action would prohibit the condition for an unmonitored release. However, the current Technical Specifications only require compensatory actions when both radiation monitors are inoperable. Should one monitor become inoperable, no compensatory action is required and a condition would exist which has the potential for allowing unmonitored releases. The requested change would correct this deficiency.

In addition, the licensee proposed to revise compensatory action (Action 81) to extend the time period from 72 hours to 7 days before a Special Report is required to be prepared and submitted (within 14 days following the event) to the Commission. The basis for the Special Report is to allow the Commission to assess potential generic problems with the monitoring system by requiring the licensee to outline the cause of the inoperability, the actions taken and the planned schedule for restoring the system to an operable status. The licensee proposed to extend the time period upon which a Special Report would be required to be written because of the requested change to require two operable SGTS Radiation Monitors. The proposed change would place the system in a situation of more frequently entering the compensatory action statement as a result of one monitor rather than two becoming inoperable.

We conclude that the changes are acceptable because 1) the proposed Action Statement 81 is taken directly from Generic Letter 83-36 of NUREG-0737 and 2) they upgrade the actions required by the present Technical Specifications.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact has been issued for this amendment (53 FR 30358, August, 1988).

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

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Dated: August 19, 1988