



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

FEB 12 1986

SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 3 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DUKE POWER COMPANY

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

SALUDA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

I. Introduction

By letter dated April 29, 1985, Duke Power Company requested a license amendment to revise surveillance requirement 4.3.4.2 in the Technical Specifications (TS) for Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, from a turbine control valve testing frequency of once in seven days to at least once in 31 days. The testing frequency for the other turbine valves remains at seven days.

II. Evaluation

The NRC staff currently requires weekly testing of all turbine valves as stated in Standard Review Plan Section 10.2 "Steam Turbines". The staff position was established after extensive discussions with major steam turbine manufacturers and is based largely on engineering judgement and the recommendations of the manufacturers.

General Electric in Technical Information Letter No. 969, dated May 22, 1984, stated that operating experience on inservice nuclear turbine steam valves shows that operability and reliability will not be significantly affected by increasing the periodic control valve testing interval from the present weekly to a much longer interval. They have also concluded that reduced turbine valve testing on this type of turbine has little or no effect on the probability of turbine missile generation. In General Electric's judgement, lack of a significant number of valve failures and good operating experience provide a reasonable basis to increase the periodic test interval for the turbine control valves.

The staff has evaluated the information submitted by Duke in the April 29, 1985, letter and General Electric's information presented in Technical Information Letter No. 969. Considering the information presented by Duke and General Electric, and the staff's original basis for the TS, the staff concludes that the surveillance interval for periodic turbine control valve testing can be increased for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, from once in seven days to at least once in 31 days without significantly affecting the capability of the turbine control valves to function on demand, and is acceptable.

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III. Environmental Consideration

The amendment involves a change in the use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes in surveillance requirements. 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 exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there have been no public comments 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.

IV. Conclusion

The Commission made a proposed determination that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register on November 20, 1985 (50 FR 47860) and consulted with the state of South Carolina. No public comments were received, and the state of South Carolina did not have any comments.

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 (3) the issuance of the 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: February 12, 1986

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Amendment No. 3 to NPF-35

Dated February 12, 1986

Docket File ←

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