



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DUKE POWER COMPANY

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

SALUDA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 31, 1985, Duke Power Company proposed to revise surveillance requirement 4.8.1.1.2a.4) of Technical Specification 3/4.8.1, "A.C. Sources," relative to the diesel generator surveillance testing.

On July 2, 1984, the NRC issued Generic Letter No. 84-15 entitled "Proposed Staff Actions to Improve and Maintain Diesel Generator Reliability." The generic letter requested licensees to review the reliability of their diesel generators based on surveillance test data, to review their programs concerning diesel generator surveillance testing, and to describe their plans for attaining and maintaining certain diesel generator reliability goals. By letter dated July 31, 1985, Duke Power Company requested several changes to the Technical Specifications related to the diesel generators. One of the changes requested, in response to the generic letter, is to reduce the diesel generator cold fast starts. The other changes requested by the licensee's letter of July 31, 1985, are outside the scope of this amendment.

The revision is based on the Typical Technical Specification provided as an Attachment to Enclosure 1 of Generic Letter 84-15. As noted in Generic Letter 84-15, such a revision is intended to reduce the number and severity of diesel generator cold fast starts, thereby decreasing engine wear and increasing reliability.

EVALUATION

The NRC staff has reviewed this portion of the licensee's submittal dated July 31, 1985, and finds it to be in accordance with the technical specification changes encouraged by the staff in Generic Letter 84-15. The previous surveillance requirement 4.8.1.1.2a.4) required fast starts from ambient conditions to be performed on a frequency specified in Table 4.8-1 of this specification for all surveillance testing. The frequency specified in Table 4.8-1 varies from at least once per 31 days to at least once per 3 days depending on the number of failures in the last 100 valid tests. These fast cold starts subject the engines to undue wear and stress on engine parts. The

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Technical Specification change requires fast starts from ambient conditions at least once per 184 days in these surveillance tests. All other engine starts for the purpose of this surveillance testing may be preceded by an engine pre-lube period and/or other warmup procedures recommended by the manufacturer so that mechanical stress and wear on the engines are minimized.

As noted in the Generic Letter, the change represents a reduction in frequency of diesel generator cold fast starts which we expect to result in less wear and stress on engine parts and, thereby, increase reliability and decrease the probability of an accident due to failure of engine parts. We also find that the change has no adverse impact upon diesel generator automatic response times or emergency loads from those used in the accident analyses. Accordingly, we conclude that the change is consistent with the intent of Generic Letter 84-15 and has no adverse impact upon safety. Therefore, the change is acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment involves a change in use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and a change 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 the 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 Section 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.

CONCLUSION

The Commission made a proposed determination that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register (50 FR 51621) on December 18, 1985, 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 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 14, 1986