



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 113 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-50

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY
JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION

THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-289

Introduction and Background

Section 4.4.1.2.5 of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1 (TMI-1) Technical Specifications (TSs) requires that local leak rate detection tests shall be performed at a frequency of at least each refueling period. Section 1.2.8 of the TSs defines a refueling interval as the time between normal refuelings of the reactor but not to exceed 24 months without prior approval of the NRC.

By letter dated December 9, 1985, GPU Nuclear Corporation (the licensee) proposes to change Section 4.4.1.2.5 of the TSs to require that local leak rate detection tests shall be performed at a frequency as required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. The proposed amendment also states that if an exemption from the testing frequency as specified by 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, is granted by the NRC, the frequency as specified by the exemption shall apply. Appendix J of 10 CFR 50 has a current maximum limitation of two years for local leak detection tests.

Evaluation

The TMI-1 TSs provide a specific test interval for local leak detection tests which is in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. The proposed amendment clarifies the TSs to state that the frequency of local leak rate testing shall always be in accordance with the regulations in effect.

The amendment requested does not change the current physical test requirements or modify their current frequency. It does not affect plant design or method of operation and does not involve modification of plant equipment. It simply verifies the fact that testing frequencies shall be in accordance with the regulations or approved exemptions instead of a set time interval specified in the TSs. If the licensee desires to extend the testing interval, they must request an exemption from the NRC. The proposed amendment deletes the requirement to also obtain a TS change with an exemption. Furthermore, if the regulations are subsequently modified, the proposed TS change deletes the administrative requirement to modify the TSs to conform with the regulations. As such, the proposed amendment is consistent with the intent of the Standard Technical Specifications and is acceptable.

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Environmental Consideration

This amendment involves a change in a surveillance interval. We have 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 this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this 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 this amendment.

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.

Dated: February 5, 1986

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