



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 113 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-40

OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-285

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated February 8, 1988, Omaha Public Power District, the licensee for Fort Calhoun Station Unit No. 1, requested a license amendment to revise their Technical Specifications (TS) (Ref. 1). The proposed amendment concerns the release of radioactive effluents from Fort Calhoun.

The amendment would: (1) relax the current TS requirement to control airborne radioactive effluents on an instantaneous basis; (2) allow the licensee to use a non-standard format for reporting radioactive effluent releases; (3) allow the licensee to use annual average (rather than real-time) meteorological dispersion factors to calculate doses; and (4) correct and clarify some parts of TS 2.9.1 and 5.9.4. However, items 1 and 2 were not approved by the staff.

2.0 EVALUATION

Item 1 - Instantaneous Releases

TS 2.9.1 (page 2-40) currently requires that the concentrations of radioactive materials released to unrestricted areas shall be kept within the limits of 10 CFR Part 20. The licensee has proposed amending this TS (and a corresponding change to the Basis for TS 2.9.1 on page 2-46) to state that "to ensure that these releases result in an annual dose from radioactive materials in liquid and gaseous effluents released to unrestricted areas that are within the limits specified in 10 CFR Part 20." The effect of this change (and a corresponding change to TS 2.9.1(2)a(i) on page 2-43 to delete "instantaneous") would be to allow the licensee to exceed the concentrations specified in 10 CFR Part 20 on the "instantaneous basis."

The staff finds the proposed change unacceptable because it would allow the licensee to exceed the concentrations in 10 CFR Part 20 on an instantaneous basis; this would not be consistent with the standard technical specifications.

Item 2 - Radioactive Effluent Reports

The licensee proposes to change TS 5.9.4.a to delete the phrase "as outlined in Regulatory Guide 1.21, Revision 1" from the Radioactive Effluent Release Reporting requirements. The proposed change would allow

the licensee more flexibility in formatting their radioactive effluent release reports. The staff finds this change unacceptable since the licensee would no longer be required to use a standard format to report the quantities of radioactive effluents released from Fort Calhoun.

Item 3 - Meteorological Dispersion

The licensee proposes to add a sentence to TS 2.9.2(2)a(i) (page 2-43) that states: "Unrestricted area concentrations shall be calculated based on the annual average Chi/Q [i.e., the symbols for a meteorological dispersion factor]." A corresponding change is proposed for TS 2.9.1(2)b on page 2-43. The change would delete the reference to calculating doses in "each of the 16 cardinal sectors" since the licensee states that doses for each calendar quarter will be calculated to an individual in the most limiting sector. The staff has previously approved the use of an annual average Chi/Q as an alternative to real-time meteorology for estimating doses from exposure to radioactive effluents released from nuclear power plants. The staff finds the proposed changes acceptable.

Item 4 - Corrections and Clarifications

The licensee proposes to correct a typographical error in TS 2.9.1(1)a(i) (page 2-41) by changing "millicurie/milliliter" to microcurie/milliliter." The licensee proposes to clarify TS 2.9.1(2)a(i) on page 2-43 so that it refers to "Table 2" of 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B. Another clarification consists of changing TS 5.9.4a on page 5-15 so that it refers to the "requirements of 10 CFR 50.36a." The staff finds these typographical changes acceptable.

3.0 SUMMARY

The staff has reviewed Omaha Public Power District's proposed amendment regarding the release of radioactive effluents from Fort Calhoun. The staff finds Items 1 and 2 unacceptable for the reasons noted in the report. The staff finds that Items 3 and 4 meet the applicable regulatory guidance and requirements and are therefore acceptable.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment involves a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 radiation exposures. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment 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.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has 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.

6.0 REFERENCES

1. Letter from R. L. Andrews, Omaha Public Power District, to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dated February 8, 1988.

Date: May 4, 1988

Principal Contributors: Edward F. Branagan, Jr.