



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 199

TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-16

GPU NUCLEAR, INC. AND

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-219

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 21, 1998, GPU Nuclear, Inc., (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would remove the requirement for the Automatic Depressurization System (ADS) function of the Electromatic Relief Valves (EMRVs) to be operable during Reactor Vessel Pressure Testing. Additionally, note h of Table 3.1.1 will be reworded to clarify the intent of the note, and will incorporate the correct time limit that was inadvertently changed due to a typographical error that was introduced in Amendment 75.

2.0 EVALUATION

The purpose of ADS is to depressurize the reactor pressure vessel during a small break loss-of-coolant-accident (LOCA) so that the low pressure emergency core cooling system (ECCS) can inject water into the core. ADS is required when the reactor water temperature is above 212 degrees F and the reactor pressure is above 110 psig. TS 3.3.A.(i) limits the Reactor Cooling System temperature to 250 degrees F during the reactor vessel pressure testing. Therefore, if a small break LOCA occurs during the testing, the resulting pressure would be limited to the saturation temperature at 250 degrees F, which is about 30 psia (approximately 15 psig). The reactor vessel pressure will be rapidly reduced to well below 110 psig without ADS. ADS is not required during the pressure vessel testing.

TS 3.5, Section 3 states that Primary containment integrity is not required during reactor vessel pressure testing. Since the containment may be open during the reactor vessel pressure testing, high containment pressure permissive will not be satisfied for the initiation of ADS. ADS function may be disabled during the vessel pressure testing. However, the present TS 3.4.B.1 requires ADS function during the reactor vessel pressure testing. The inconsistencies between the two TS sections are corrected by the proposed changes where there is no requirement for the ADS function during reactor vessel pressure testing. The proposed TS 3.4.B.1 changes are acceptable.

The original OCNGS TS in Table 3.1.1, note h, included a requirement to limit bypassing the relief function of the EMRVs to 8 hours in a 30-day period. The statement "Relief Valve controllers shall not be bypassed..." led to some confusion because the EMRV control switches do not have a "Bypass" position. The proposed change replaces the terminology used in reference to the EMRVs with the appropriate terms. The wording change is only a clarification and does not change the intent of the TS. The proposed note h to TS Table 3.1.1 is acceptable. In addition, Amendment 75 inadvertently changed the 8 hours in a 30-day period to 3 hours due to a typographical error. The licensing basis for the plant is 8 hours versus the 3 hours stated in the existing note in the TS. Therefore, the revised note h to TS Table 3.1.1 will incorporate the correct time limit that was inadvertently changed in Amendment 75.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New Jersey State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC 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 exposure. 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 (63 FR 48527). 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.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission 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, (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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Date: October 14, 1998