



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

Enclosure 2

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATING TO REVISED COMMITMENTS BY

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO

FORT ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-267

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By the letter dated December 27, 1985, (P-85485) the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC) requested that certain commitments they had made to provide information to the NRC be revised. Some commitments had originally been made on the basis that plant operation would resume in the summer of 1985. However, continued difficulties in demonstrating Fort St. Vrain's (FSV) compliance with 10 CFR 50.49 resulted in only very limited, low-power operation during 1985. Currently, the plant is still restricted to operation at up to 35 percent of full power. Hence, the staff has reviewed these commitments and provided its evaluation below.

2.0 EVALUATION

Item A - PSC has requested a revision to its commitment to provide control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) temperature data. The staff agrees that this delay is acceptable, since high-power operation is needed for the CRDM temperatures to rise to high levels. However, PSC is requested to provide a summary report with temperature data for their latest experience for up-to-35 percent power operation .

Item B - PSC has requested a delay for its commitment to evaluate the effectiveness of certain moisture ingress reduction modifications. The staff agrees that this delay is acceptable, since the evaluation requires extensive operational data. However, PSC is requested to provide a summary report with the helium flow data for each CRDM penetration for their recent up-to-35 percent power operation.

Item C - PSC has requested a delay in its commitment to provide back-EMF data on the CRDMs. The staff agrees that this delay is acceptable, since the CRDMs should have less tendency to behave abnormally at low temperatures. However, PSC is requested to report initial accelerations of the CRDMs from surveillance testing for up-to-35 percent power operation.

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Item D - PSC has requested a delay in its commitment to provide back-EMF data on control rods that failed in January 1985. The staff agrees that this delay is acceptable, since the CRDMs have been completely refurbished.

Item E - PSC has requested a delay in its commitment to complete modifications of certain masonry block walls. The staff agrees with PSC that these modifications may be delayed until spent fuel is removed from adjacent storage wells.

Item F - PSC has requested a delay in its commitments to ship fuel test element FTE-2. The staff finds this minor delay acceptable.

Item 1 - PSC has requested to defer its commitment to provide an improved CRDM surveillance program. The staff agrees with PSC that the improved CRDM surveillance program should be deferred until sufficient operational experience is accumulated. However, PSC should provide a summary report with the surveillance data requested in Items A, B, and C above.

Items 2 through 5 - The NRC concurs with PSC that these items are complete.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The staff concludes that the delays in satisfaction of its commitments, as discussed above, are acceptable. However, PSC should continue to make every effort to assure that these commitments are met in a timely manner.

Principal Contributor: Kenneth Heitner

Dated: April 15, 1986