



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 18 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42

KANSAS GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

KANSAS CITY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-482

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 6, 1988, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation submitted a request for changes to the Technical Specifications. The amendment would delete the short-term reporting requirements related to primary coolant specific activity levels; and (2) no longer require plant shutdown if the primary coolant specific activity exceeds the limit of 1.0 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131 for an accumulated period of over 800 hours in a 12-month period.

2.0 EVALUATION

Technical Specification 3.4.8 for Wolf Creek currently requires that: (1) the plant must be made subcritical with T_{avg} less than 500°F within 6 hours if the specific activity of the primary coolant is greater than 1.0 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131 for more than 48 hours during one continuous time interval or greater than 60 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131; (2) the plant must be made subcritical if the primary coolant specific activity exceeds the limit of 1.0 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131 for an accumulated period of over 800 hours in a 12-month period; and (3) the licensee must submit a Special Report to the NRC if the primary coolant specific activity is greater than 1.0 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131.

On September 27, 1985, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter 85-19, "Reporting Requirements on Primary Coolant Iodine Spikes," to all licensees and applicants for operating power reactors and holders of construction permits for power reactors. In Generic Letter 85-19, the staff determined that: (1) reporting requirements related to primary coolant specific activity levels, specifically iodine spikes, could be reduced from a short-term report (i.e., Special Report or Licensee Event Report) to an item to be included in the Annual Report; and (2) existing shutdown requirements based on exceeding the primary coolant specific activity limit of 1.0 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131 for an accumulated

period of over 800 hours were no longer necessary. The change in these requirements is based on an improvement in the quality of nuclear fuel over the past 10 years, and the fact that appropriate actions would be initiated long before approaching the limit as currently specified. Generic Letter 85-19 also presented model Technical Specifications which reflect these findings.

3.0 EVALUATION

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation has proposed amending the Technical Specifications for Wolf Creek to match the model Technical Specifications. In accordance with Generic Letter 85-19, the portion of the Technical Specifications regarding shutdown if the primary coolant specific activity exceeds 1.0 microcuries/gram dose equivalent I-131 for more than 48 hours during one continuous time interval, or is greater than 60 microcurie/gram dose equivalent I-131 would not be affected by the proposed changes. Reporting requirements related to primary coolant specific activity levels would be included in Technical Specification 6.9. Paragraphs 3 3/4 4-6 of the Bases would be changed accordingly. Since the proposed changes are consistent with the model Technical Specifications which were enclosed in Generic Letter 85-19, the NRC staff finds the proposed amendment acceptable.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This 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 or in a surveillance requirement. 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.

Date: October 5, 1988

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