



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 39 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-11 AND  
AMENDMENT NO. 21 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-18  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY  
LA SALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Control Rod Drive (CRD) System provides high pressure charging water to the CRD mechanism piston to allow reactor scram when required. During normal plant operation, reactor pressure provides the necessary driving force required to insert the control rods during a scram. When the plant is not at full operating pressure, the CRD scram accumulators (one for each control rod) provide the needed motive force for control rod insertion. To ensure that each accumulator has sufficient stored energy, the accumulator gas pressure must be greater than or equal to 940 psig. Accumulator pressure is verified weekly per surveillance requirement (SR) 4.1.3.5.a of the plant Technical Specification (TS) 3.1.3.5, which addresses the CRD scram accumulators. Additionally, an alarm is provided to ensure that between these weekly surveillances, the pressure is maintained at or above 940 psig. The pressure detector is currently set to alarm at 940+30,-0 psig on decreasing pressure per existing SR 4.1.3.5.b.1.b for La Salle Units 1 and 2.

By letter dated August 27, 1985, Commonwealth Edison Company (licensee) proposed changes to the existing plant TS 3.1.3.5 and the corresponding SR 4.1.3.5. Specifically, the licensee proposed to add action statements to TS 3.1.3.5 to address inoperable pressure and level detectors associated with the scram accumulators. Also, the licensee proposed to revise the pressure alarm calibration requirement for pressure detectors (SR 4.1.3.5.b.1.b) to a set point value of greater than or equal to 940 psig. Based on review of the above submittal, the staff requested additional information relative to the proposed change to TS 3.1.3.5. By letter dated April 4, 1986, the licensee provided a second submittal, wherein they withdrew their earlier request for change to TS 3.1.3.5, but retained the request for change in SR 4.1.3.5.b.1.b. The licensee justified their requested revision of the SR by stating that the tolerance band of +30,-0 psig in the existing SR was not required to ensure the operability of either a scram accumulator, or its associated pressure detector, and that the proposed revision to eliminate the upper limit of the pressure detector set point value is conservative and would allow greater operational flexibility than what is currently available.

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## 2.0 EVALUATION

The staff has reviewed the April 4th submittal and the associated justification for the requested revision of SR 4.1.3.5.b.1.b in the earlier submittal. Based on the review, the staff agrees that the proposed revision is conservative in the sense that, with the revision, the alarm set point value for the pressure detector could be equal to or higher than the currently existing range of set point values and could consequently give the same or earlier warning of scram accumulator concerns. The staff also finds that while the proposed revision would allow the licensee greater operational flexibility, it would not compromise the operability of either a scram accumulator or its associated pressure detector.

Based on the above findings, the staff concludes that the proposed revisions of SR 4.1.3.5.b.1.b for La Salle Units 1 and 2 relating to the range of alarm set point values for the pressure detectors associated with Control Rod Driving System scram accumulators are acceptable.

## 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

These amendments involve changes in the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes in surveillance requirements. The staff has determined that these amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant changes 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 these amendments involve no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, these amendments meet 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 these amendments.

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission made a proposed determination that these amendments involve no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register (50 FR 41245) on October 9, 1985, and consulted with the state of Illinois. No public comments were received, and the state of Illinois did not have any comments.

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 these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Dated: May 6, 1986