



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 123 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-11 AND
AMENDMENT NO. 108 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-18
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY
LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 15, 1997, the Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The proposed amendments would eliminate unnecessary detail from the Accident Monitoring Instrumentation Surveillance Requirements (TS Table 4.3.7.5-1)

2.0 EVALUATION

TS Table 4.3.7.5-1, Accident Monitoring Instrumentation Surveillance Requirements, lists the channel checks and channel calibrations for the required accident monitoring instrumentation. This table includes a quarterly channel calibration of the drywell hydrogen concentration analyzer and monitor. A footnote (*) states that this calibration must be performed using sample gas containing four volume percent hydrogen with the balance nitrogen. The licensee has determined that the current TS is incorrect and proposes to delete this footnote.

Three Mile Island (TMI) Action Plan Item II.F.1 provides the requirements for accident monitoring instrumentation. Attachment 6 to II.F.1, "Confinement Hydrogen Monitor" states that the measurement capability of these monitors shall be provided over the range of 0 to 10 percent hydrogen concentration. In LaSalle's licensing Safety Evaluation Report (SER), NUREG-0519, Section 22, the staff concluded that the capability of the hydrogen monitors covers the 0-10 percent range and was, therefore, acceptable. The Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR), Section 7.5.2.2.2.1, states that the hydrogen concentration is recorded up to 10 percent. The use of a calibration gas containing four volume percent hydrogen, which is used to span the instrumentation, results in the control room indication for drywell hydrogen concentration being limited to a range of 0 percent to 4 percent. Therefore, compliance with the current TS results in the instrumentation not meeting the licensing basis.

The licensee has proposed to delete the footnote rather than modify it based on the fact that it provides unnecessary detail concerning the calibration requirements that are specific to the type of instrument used for this application. These details are more appropriate for station procedures. The requirements to perform channel calibrations on a quarterly basis and channel checks on a monthly basis will not be changed. The TS definition of Channel Calibration requires calibrating instrumentation channels over the range of use of the instrument. The

design and licensing basis requires a 0 percent to 10 percent indication range. Therefore, the licensee must use the appropriate calibration gas concentration to meet the TS surveillance requirement, even if the specific details are not included in the TS. The level of detail proposed by the licensee is consistent with this and other instrumentation in 40REG-1434, Revision 1, Standard Technical Specifications, General Electric Plants, BW 3.9.

Because the footnote provides unnecessary detail, its deletion from the TS will not affect the requirement to perform channel calibrations of these instruments and is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a surveillance requirement. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve 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 amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (62 FR 61841). Accordingly, the 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 the amendments.

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

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Date: February 17, 1998