



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 61 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-34

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO
FORT ST. VRAIN NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-267

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 29, 1988, the licensee requested to delete the requirement to monitor the ambient temperature of the moisture monitor penetrations. This temperature was originally required to be monitored to assure that the dew point moisture monitors (DPMM's) were operating correctly. This requirement was originally incorporated into the Fort St. Vrain (FSV) Technical Specifications (TS) as part of Amendment 13. The licensee had at this time installed thermocouples in a temporary configuration to provide the required monitoring capability.

Recently, the licensee had begun a program to reduce the number of temporary configurations at FSV. This program reflects the staff's perception that the number of temporary configurations should be minimized. However, since this temporary configuration is required, a TS change must be approved prior to its removal.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has stated that the temporary configuration has been used to monitor the DPMM penetration temperatures for approximately 10 years. During this period recorded penetration temperatures never exceeded 135°F. The DPMM's will function correctly up to 185°F. This data includes plant operation at all power levels. Therefore, the licensee has concluded that further monitoring is unnecessary. This would allow the temporary temperature measurement configuration to be removed.

The staff notes that the stable temperature environment experienced by the DPMM's effectively mitigates the original concerns that led to this technical specification in Amendment 13. Now that the monitoring has established that the conditions are stable, the monitoring is no longer needed. Thus, it is acceptable to remove the temperature monitoring instrumentation.

The staff also notes that the DPMM function is essentially backed-up by other plant protective system functions. In particular, the DPMM function is backed-up by measurement of reactor primary coolant pressure. Thus, the staff concludes that the licensee's proposed change is acceptable.

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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The 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. 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.

4.0 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: August 5, 1988

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