



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 159 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-36

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-309

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 13, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated September 25, 1996, the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company (the licensee) submitted a request for change to the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station Technical Specifications (TS). The proposed change would modify the reporting relationship of the Nuclear Safety Audit and Review (NSAR) Committee. The proposed change clarifies the relationship with respect to reporting authority and responsibility.

Technical Specification 5.5.P designates the Vice President, Yankee Nuclear Services Division (YNSD) as the responsible official for the NSAR Committee and having the authority to: appoint committee members, request the committee to perform special reviews and investigations, request the committee to perform audits, and receive minutes of committee meetings. The proposed change would realign this responsibility and authority to the President, Maine Yankee.

The proposed change also includes minor editorial changes to the same technical specification. These changes are administrative in nature and serve only to clarify existing requirements.

2.0 EVALUATION

The change proposed by the licensee is administrative in nature. No changes to plant equipment or surveillance requirements are involved. The audit and review functions of the NSAR Committee will continue to be required. The proposed change will not, of itself, decrease the effectiveness of these functions. The proposed realignment of the authority and responsibility for the NSAR Committee to the President, Maine Yankee, assures that the committee continues to have direct access to a level of management necessary for the committee to carry out its duties.

The proposed change was reviewed with respect to NUREG-0800, the Standard Review Plan, section 13.4 and the realignment of the responsibility and authority to the President, Maine Yankee for NSAR Committee aspects is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The proposed amendment relates to changes in recordkeeping, reporting or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the proposed amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this proposed amendment.

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

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Date: August 8, 1997