



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATING TO AMENDMENT NO. 100 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-36

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER COMPANY (MYAPCo)

MAINE YANKEE ATOMIC POWER STATION (MYAPS)

DOCKET NO. 50-309

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 13, 1985, MYAPCo submitted a request for changes to the Technical Specifications for MYAPS. This submittal was amplified by further correspondence dated January 15, 1986, which provided information relative to significant hazards considerations; and January 13, 1987, which revised the originally proposed action statement.

The requested Technical Specifications changes would revise Technical Specification 3.3 (Reactor Coolant System Operational Components) adding Section D (Reactor Coolant System Emergency Vent System); add bases for this system; and revised Technical Specification 4.6 (Periodic Testing) adding Specification E (Reactor Coolant System Emergency Vent System) to conform with guidance enclosed in Generic Letter 83-37.

Discussion and Evaluation

The following staff guidance concerning Reactor Coolant System Vents (II.B.1) was put forth in Generic Letter 83-37:

At least one reactor coolant system vent path (consisting of at least two valves in series which are powered from emergency buses) shall be operable and closed at all times (except for cold shutdown and refueling) at each of the following locations:

1. Reactor Vessel Head
2. Pressurizer steam space
3. Reactor coolant system high point

For the plants using a power operated relief valve (PORV) as a reactor coolant system vent, the block valve is not required to be closed if the PORV is operable.

MYAPS Technical Specifications do not currently address the Reactor Coolant System Vent System as required by Generic Letter 83-37. The licensee has proposed to add the requirement that at least one reactor coolant system vent path to be operable at all times (except cold shutdown and refueling) with motor operated valves shut and power removed since, at MYAPS, PORVs are used as reactor coolant system vents.

The following remedial actions are required in Generic Letter 83-37 if one or more of the reactor coolant system vents is inoperable:

1. With one of the above reactor coolant system vent paths inoperable, STARTUP and/or POWER OPERATION may continue provided the inoperable vent path is maintained closed with power removed from the valve actuator of all the valves in the inoperable vent path; restore the inoperable vent path to OPERABLE status within 30 days, or, be in HOT STANDBY within 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.
2. With two or more of the above reactor coolant system vent paths inoperable; maintain the inoperable vent path closed with power removed from the valve actuators of all the valves in the inoperable vent paths, and restore at least (two) of the vent paths to OPERABLE status within 72 hours or be in HOT STANDBY within 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

The licensee has proposed the following remedial actions:

1. With one RCS emergency vent path inoperable, ensure that a PORV is operable providing a redundant vent path, and provide a report to the Commission within 30 days describing the cause and nature of the problem and schedule for repair of the inoperable emergency vent path.
2. With both of the RCS emergency vent paths inoperable, ensure that one PORV venting path is operable, and restore at least one RCS emergency vent path to operable within 30 days, or, be in cold shutdown condition within the following 36 hours.

The following periodic testing is required by Generic Letter 83-37:

Each reactor coolant system vent path shall be demonstrated OPERABLE at least once per 18 months by:

1. Verifying all manual isolation valves in each vent path are locked in the open position.
2. Cycling each valve in the vent path through at least one complete cycle of full travel from the control room during COLD SHUTDOWN or REFUELING.
3. Verifying flow through the reactor coolant vent system vent paths during venting during COLD SHUTDOWN or REFUELING.

Since MYAPS is a plant using PORV as a vent path, the PORV block valve is not required to be closed, thus requirement 1, above, is not applicable to MYAPS. The licensee has proposed that at least once each refueling interval during cold shutdown condition (1) all remotely operated valves shall be cycled, and (2) flow through each vent path shall be verified.

The staff has evaluated the proposed changes to the Technical Specifications and concludes that these changes would impose operability and surveillance requirements in general conformance with the staff's guidance in Generic Letter 83-37. Further, these changes would not increase the likelihood of a malfunction of safety-related equipment or increase the consequences of an accident previously analyzed or create the possibility of a malfunction different from those previously evaluated. Therefore, the licensee's requested changes are acceptable.

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. 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 exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that this amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, this amendment meets 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 this amendment.

CONCLUSION

We have 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: June 25, 1997

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