



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 15 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-95

RHODE ISLAND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-193

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated June 2, 1987, the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission (licensee) requested an amendment to their Technical Specifications (TS) that would reduce the restricted area to only encompass the reactor building and the attached office laboratory wing. The present TS define the restricted area as encompassing the above in addition to the three acre area known as the Nuclear Science Center site.

2.0 EVALUATION

The reactor operation is confined to the reactor building and adjacent office laboratory wing. As such, redefinition of the restricted area to these limits conforms to the intended use of the facility. Application of 10 CFR 20 requirements to the reactor building and office laboratory wing is more meaningful than application to the three acre nuclear site. In fact, the present security plan treats the reactor building and adjacent laboratory wing as the restricted area. Also, the proposed TS change would not require any changes to the emergency plan. However, it is noted that the licensee is proposing to construct a new building close to the reactor building, called the Center for Atmospheric Chemistry<sup>(2)</sup> Studies. Since it is planned to require evacuation of the new building in case of an accident in the reactor facility, the licensee should change the emergency planning zone to include this building and revise the emergency plan when the new building is under construction.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The staff has determined that this 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. 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.

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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 the operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or the health and safety of the public.

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Dated: October 27, 1987