

**UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY****DOCKET NOS. 50-315 AND 50-316****NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS  
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-58 and DPR-74 issued to Indiana Michigan Power Company (the licensee) for operation of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Berrien County, Michigan.

The proposed amendments would revise Technical Specification (T/S) Surveillance Requirement 4.5.1.c to require verification that power is removed from each emergency core cooling system accumulator isolation valve operator instead of verification that each accumulator isolation valve breaker is removed from the circuit. In addition, the proposed license amendments would revise T/S 3.5.1 to change "pressurizer pressure" to "reactor coolant system pressure" in the applicability and action statement requirements. The Bases for T/S 3/4.5.1 will also be revised to reflect both changes. Additionally, administrative changes are proposed to the page format.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR

50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability of occurrence or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

The ECCS [emergency core cooling system] accumulators are used to mitigate the consequences of an accident after the event has occurred and do not initiate any accident previously evaluated. Demonstrating how power is removed from the valve operator does not initiate an accident. Inadvertently closing the valves cannot initiate an accident. Therefore, there is no significant increase in the probability of occurrence of an accident previously evaluated.

The ECCS accumulators will still perform their function of injecting borated water into the reactor coolant loops following a large break loss-of-coolant accident, as described in Section 14.3.1 of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). A spurious closure of an accumulator outlet isolation valve is not a credible event. Performing T/S Surveillance Requirement 4.5.1.c provides assurance that one of the two actions required for spurious closure of the valve is precluded. The proposed change to the surveillance continues to provide assurance that power will be removed from each accumulator isolation valve operator so that the valves remain open. The consequences of accidents previously evaluated remained bounded because the accumulators will still function as assumed in the UFSAR accident analysis. Therefore, there is no significant increase in the consequences of any accident previously evaluated.

Changing "pressurizer pressure" to "RCS [reactor coolant system] pressure" has no significant effect on the applicability of the T/S requirements. RCS pressure and pressurizer pressure instrumentation measure a similar parameter in the primary coolant system. Since the RCS is a closed-loop fluid system, pressure instruments should indicate approximately the same value. There is no significant difference between the instrument readings because they are corrected for range, height, and accuracy. There is no significant change in the margin of pressure between when the accumulators are required to be aligned at 1000 psig and the upper limit specified in T/S 3.5.1.d of 658 psig.

The proposed format changes are administrative and have no impact on plant operation.

Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability of occurrence or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

The proposed changes to T/S 3/4.5.1 and the associated Bases do not involve any physical changes to the plant, but do change the way the plant is operated by changing the method for ensuring spurious closure of the accumulator isolation valve will not occur. The proposed change to T/S Surveillance Requirement 4.5.1.c does not create any new operator actions. The position of the accumulator isolation valve remains open in Modes 1, 2, and 3 with RCS pressure greater than 1000 psig, which meets its design safety function. The proposed change does not increase the possibility of the accumulator valve repositioning. In order for repositioning to happen, the operator must close the molded-case circuit breaker coupled with either an active single failure or deliberate operator action in the control room. The proposed change of verifying that power is removed from the accumulator isolation valve provides the same level of protection. Two positive actions are required for the accumulator isolation valve to reposition.

The proposed format changes are administrative and have no impact on plant operation.

Therefore, the proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Does the change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

T/S Surveillance Requirement 4.5.1.c provides requirements that ensure that a single action will not cause an inadvertent closure of the accumulator isolation valves. The proposed change continues to ensure that two positive actions, an operator action to restore the breaker and a single failure, are required for valve closure.

Changing "pressurizer pressure" to "RCS pressure" does not impact operation of the accumulators. The proposed changes do not impact the nitrogen cover pressure as stated in T/S 3.5.1.c. The accumulators would not be expected to inject borated water until RCS pressure lowers to 658 psig (the upper limit specified in T/S 3.5.1.d). The change does not affect when this would occur after an accident. Therefore, changing "pressurizer pressure" to "RCS pressure" has no impact on plant operation.

The proposed format changes are administrative and have no impact on plant operation.

Therefore, there is no significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92 are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By December 23, 1999, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714, which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective,

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

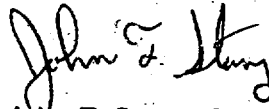
A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to David W. Jenkins, Esq., American Electric Power, Nuclear Generation Group, One Cook Place, Bridgman, MI 49106, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(I)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 5, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 18th day of November 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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Project Directorate III  
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