



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 180 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-28

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION

VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-271

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 21, 1999, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation (the licensee) submitted a request to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station (VY) Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed amendment would increase the required volume of stored fuel in the diesel fuel oil storage tank (FOST) as a result of a conservative recalculation of diesel generator fuel consumption.

2.0 EVALUATION

VY has two diesel-driven generators with a continuous duty rating of 2750 kW each to provide power for the electrical loads required during postulated design basis accidents. Fuel oil is supplied by a single FOST with a nominal capacity of 75,000 gallons.

The licensee proposed changing the TS 3.10.C required amount of fuel oil in the FOST from 25,000 gallons to 36,000 gallons. The licensee stated that the quantity of diesel fuel oil required for operation of one diesel generator for 7 days was conservatively recalculated to be 36,000 gallons. The recalculation assumed diesel generator operation at its continuous duty rating of 2750 kW for the full 7-day period. The 7-day period allows for sufficient time to place the unit in a safe shutdown condition and to bring in additional fuel from offsite. The licensee has implemented the 36,000 minimum stored volume limit, which is more conservative than the 25,000 TS requirement, through administrative controls while this TS amendment is under review.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's proposed amendment and concludes that changing the TS 3.10.C required amount of fuel oil in the FOST from 25,000 gallons to 36,000 gallons is acceptable because it is based on diesel generator operation at a continuous duty rating of 2750 kW for the full 7-day period and the 7-day period allows for sufficient time to bring in additional fuel oil from offsite, if necessary.

The licensee also proposed corresponding changes to the TS Bases. The staff reviewed these changes as part of the licensee's supporting justification for the proposed amendment, and concluded that the proposed TS Bases changes adequately document the licensee's basis for the revised TS.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in 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 the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (64 FR 56537). Accordingly, the 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 the 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: November 22, 1999