

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a 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(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment requests involve no significant hazards consideration.

*Attorney for licensee:* Richard F. Locke, Esq., Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 7442, San Francisco, California 94120.

*NRC Section Chief:* Stephen Dembek.

*PPL Susquehanna, LLC, Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (SSES 1 and 2), Luzerne County, Pennsylvania*

*Date of amendment request:* May 6, 2003.

*Description of amendment request:* The proposed amendments would delete SSES 1 and 2 Technical Specifications (TSs) 3.3.1.3, "Oscillation Power Range Monitor (OPRM) Instrumentation," and revise TS 3.4.1, "Recirculation Loops Operating." These changes would reverse approved TS Amendment Nos. 184 (Unit 1) and 158 (Unit 2) dated July 30, 1999, that are not yet implemented, which effectively results in no change to the current SSES 1 and 2 operation. Extension of the implementation date was needed to provide time to address continuing hardware and software deficiencies with the OPRM system. The extension of the implementation date until November 1, 2001, was approved by Amendment Nos. 187 (Unit 1) and 161 (Unit 2) dated June 2, 2000. A second extension of the implementation date until November 1, 2003, was approved by Amendment Nos. 196 (Unit 1) and 172 (Unit 2) dated October 29, 2001. This deferral was based on a Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), part 21, report issued by General Electric Company on August 31, 2001, which identified a non-conservative deficiency in the OPRM trip setpoint methodology. The licensee stated that the OPRM system cannot be declared OPERABLE until a revised NRC-approved methodology providing a valid basis for the trip setpoints is available and adopted for the SSES 1 and 2 OPRM systems. The implementation requirements associated with Amendment Nos. 187, 161, 196 and 172 would also be superseded with this proposed amendment. The proposed amendment would formally reinstate the requirements currently governing operation, which define appropriately conservative restrictions

to plant operation and operator response to thermal hydraulic instability events.

*Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination:* 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 proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability of occurrence or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

*Response:* No.

The OPRM system is not an initiator to any accident sequence analyzed in the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). The changes do not involve a physical change to structures, systems, or components (SSCs) since the RPS [reactor protection system] trip function has not been installed and does not alter the method of operation or control of SSCs since the OPRM system has not been declared OPERABLE. The current assumptions in the safety analysis regarding accident initiators and mitigation of accidents (including assumed protection of fuel design limits) are unaffected by these changes. No additional failure modes or mechanisms are being introduced and the likelihood of previously analyzed failures remains unchanged.

Operation in accordance with the proposed Technical Specification (TS) ensures that the protection from thermal hydraulic instabilities remains as previously evaluated and the protection for fuel design limits remain as described in the FSAR. Therefore, the mitigative functions will continue to provide the protection assumed by the existing analysis.

Therefore, this change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

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

*Response:* No.

The proposed change does not involve a physical alteration of the plant. No new equipment is being introduced, and installed equipment is not being operated in a new or different manner. There are no setpoints affected by this change at which protective or mitigative actions are initiated. This change will not alter the manner in which equipment operation is initiated, nor will the functional demands on credited equipment be changed. No alterations in the procedures that ensure the plant remains within analyzed limits are being proposed, and no changes are being made to the procedures relied upon to respond to an off-normal event as described in the FSAR. As such, no new failure modes are being introduced. The change does not alter assumptions made in the safety analysis and licensing basis.

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

*Response:* No.

The margin of safety is established through equipment design, operating parameters, and the setpoints at which automatic actions are

initiated. The proposed change is acceptable because the required protection from thermal hydraulic instabilities remains as previously evaluated and the protection for fuel design limits remain as described in the FSAR. Operation in accordance with the proposed TS ensures that the margin of safety is maintained. Therefore, the change does not involve a significant reduction in a 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(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

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*NRC Section Chief:* Richard J. Laufer.

*STP Nuclear Operating Company, Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499, South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, Matagorda County, Texas*

*Date of amendment request:* May 14, 2003.

*Description of amendment request:*

The proposed amendment revises surveillance requirement 4.6.2.1 for demonstrating operability of containment spray system spray nozzles.

*Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination:* 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 proposed license amendment involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

The Containment Spray System is not considered an initiator of any analyzed event. The proposed change does not have a detrimental impact on the integrity of any plant structure, system, or component that may initiate an analyzed event. The proposed change will not alter the operation or otherwise increase the failure probability of any plant equipment that can initiate an analyzed accident.

This change does not affect the plant design. There is no increase in the likelihood of formation of significant corrosion products. Due to their location at the top of the containment, introduction of foreign material into the spray headers is unlikely. Foreign material introduced during maintenance activities would be the most likely source for obstruction, and verification following such maintenance would confirm the nozzles remain unobstructed.

Consequently, there is no significant increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

The Containment Spray System is designed to address the consequences of a LOCA [loss