



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
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R. P. Grill, Chief, Site Safety Branch, DRL

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT E-5979, DOCKET NO. 50-263 -  
PROPOSED CHANGE IN GASEOUS RADWASTE SYSTEM AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
-- MEETING SUMMARY

The applicant has proposed to modify the Monticello off-gas system (presently with 30 minutes holdup) by adding a recombiner, compressors and pressurized holdup tanks to provide a minimum holdup of 50 hours. This would provide an overall decontamination factor of approximately 22 and 125 for curies and doses (beta-gamma) respectively. It is the applicant's design objective to reduce the air ejector releases to 0.012 Ci/sec from 0.27 Ci/sec which would yield whole body dose of 4 mrem/year. However, in evaluating the releases from the facility, only the air ejector discharge has been considered. We informed the applicant that we could not conclude that the releases from Monticello were as "low as practicable."

We indicated that, in our view, this was a new facility (including a building and equipment) and it must be designed against applicable natural phenomenon criteria as presently established by the Commission. The applicant finally committed to designing the building and equipment against the effects of the Probable Maximum Flood, the Design Basis Earthquake and the design tornado. However, the intended location of the new facility will be at the base of the existing plant stack, which, although, Class I seismically, is not designed to withstand the design tornado. On this account, we will use 10 CFR 20 as the appropriate guide to evaluate accident consequences. The applicant's analyses of the whole body dose for the release of all stored noble gases yields a dose of 0.8 rem.

The other major deficiency in the applicant's evaluation is that there has been no evaluation of iodine releases (accident or routine) since they contend that most, if not all, of the iodine will be removed by the recombiner. There is no data on this removal mechanism, however, nor do they intend to perform R&D on it. Other points raised by the staff on system design, performance, and R&D such as catalyst poisoning, will be covered by the project leader, Vic Benaroya.

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cc: H. Denton  
S&RS Members