

GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION
OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Facility Operating
License No. DPR-16

Technical Specification Change Request No. 232
Docket No. 50-219

Applicant submits, by this Technical Specification Change Request No. 232, to the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Operating License, a change to pages 4.7-1, 4.7-2, 4.7-3, and 4.7-4.

By

Michael B. Roche

Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this *21th* day of *November*, 1996.

Geraldine Levin

A Notary Public of NJ

GERALDINE E. LEVIN
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires 6-8-2000

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OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-16
DOCKET NO. 50-219
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST NO. 232

Applicant hereby requests the Commission to change Appendix A of the above-captioned license as follows:

1. Sections to be Changed:

Section 4.7.B; Station Battery Surveillances

2. Extent of Change:

During Refueling Outage 14R, the B Station Battery was replaced with a newer type. The acceptance criteria for existing individual cell voltage (ICV) is 2.0v. The requested change to 2.09v more accurately reflects the condition of a new charged cell while on a float charge. Additionally, the surveillance frequency for battery specific gravities is being changed to implement the recommendations of IEEE 450-1995.

Technical Specification Item 4.7.B.4.d is being deleted as existing Technical Specification battery inspection and testing requirements adequately verify station and diesel generator battery operability and condition.

3. Change Requested:

The specific requested changes are contained on the attached "CHANGED PAGES" section of this document.

4. Discussion:

The newer battery design has adequate margin for future load growth. It had previously been determined that the existing 2.0v ICV limit was acceptable for ensuring the operability of the battery. A change to 2.09v is being requested to meet the manufacturer's recommendations. Additionally, the phrase "...while on a float charge..." is being added where appropriate to clarify the battery conditions during surveillance testing.

The usual ICV while on a float charge is 2.2v. The existing 2.0v ICV is based on the requirements for ensuring operability of the respective electrical loads. The manufacturer recommends a limit of 2.09v ICV while on a float charge. The requested change is more conservative in that it would require actions at a voltage higher than that which is presently specified.

Additionally, a change to testing frequency is being requested to specify the frequencies recommended in IEEE 450-1995, paragraph 6.3.1 for specific gravities. Presently, the technical specification requires that the specific gravity of all cells be tested on a quarterly basis with the temperature of each fifth cell being recorded for surveillance review. There are no annual requirements. The requested change will test and record every tenth cell specific gravity and temperature during a quarterly surveillance. All cell specific gravities will be tested on an annual basis.

There is no requested change to reading all of the ICVs on a quarterly basis, nor is there any change to the weekly pilot cell surveillances.

The proposed change also deletes existing Technical Specification 4.7.B.4.d, which requires verification of station battery and diesel generator battery low voltage annunciator pick up and reset setpoints once per 24 months. Removal of the existing Technical Specification surveillance of the station battery and diesel generator battery low voltage annunciator setpoints does not affect any plant systems, components, or operating conditions. Existing Technical Specification battery inspection and testing requirements adequately verify battery operability and condition. There are no Technical Specification required limiting conditions of operation or action statements associated with this surveillance requirement. The low voltage annunciators are not being removed as a result of the proposed Technical Specification change. Low battery voltage control room indication and alarm functions are being maintained. This change only removes an unnecessary surveillance requirement to verify the station battery and diesel generator battery annunciator pickup and reset setpoints at least once per 24 months. These setpoints and associated surveillance requirements do not meet any of the criteria codified in 10 CFR 50.36 for determining content of Technical Specifications and removal of the surveillance requirement is consistent with the battery surveillance requirements contained in NUREG-1433, Standard Technical Specifications General Electric Plants, BWR/4, Revision 1, April 1995. Therefore, the proposed change has no adverse affect on nuclear safety or safe plant operations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91, this Technical Specification Change Request has been determined to contain No Significant Hazards as required by 10 CFR 50.91. These evaluations are specified in 10 CFR 50.92.

This request has been determined to involve No Significant Hazards in that it does not:

1. Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; (or)

The proposed change in ICVs does not increase the probability of an accident previously evaluated, as it increases the required voltage for each ICV.

The proposed change in frequency does not increase the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, as the change in the frequency of specific gravity testing is the result of industry experience gained over the years. The weekly reading of pilot cell specific gravity and cell voltage, along with the quarterly reading of all ICVs and a 10% sample of specific gravities from designated cells provides an acceptable means of determining cell operability as specified in IEEE 450-1995.

The proposed deletion of Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.7.B.4.d only removes an unnecessary Technical Specification surveillance and is consistent with NUREG-1433, Standard Technical Specifications General Electric Plants, BWR/4, Revision 1, April 1995. No change to plant systems, components or operating conditions are associated with this change. Existing Technical Specification station and diesel generator battery inspection and testing requirements adequately verify battery operability and condition.

2. Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; (or)

The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident than previously evaluated, as the change only involves raising a required voltage, performing an existing surveillance on a different frequency, and removing an unnecessary annunciator surveillance requirement. The station battery and diesel generator battery low voltage annunciator setpoints do not meet any of the criteria codified in 10 CFR 50.36 for determining content of Technical Specifications and removal of the surveillance requirement is consistent with NUREG-1433, Standard Technical Specifications General Electric Plants, BWR/4, Revision 1, April 1995. There is no change to hardware or operating conditions.

3. Involve a significant decrease in the margin of safety.

The proposed change to the ICV does not decrease the margin of safety, as increasing the required voltage actually increases the margin of safety. The proposed change to the frequency does not decrease the margin of safety as it continues to require testing and evaluation of the requisite surveillance points and implements requirements which have been determined to provide an adequate level of safety by the IEEE. The removal of Technical Specification surveillance requirements for the battery low voltage annunciator setpoints does not affect any plant systems, components or operating conditions.