



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 152 TO POSSESSION ONLY LICENSE NO. DPR-3

YANKEE ATOMIC ELECTRIC COMPANY

YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-29

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 24, 1999, the Yankee Atomic Electric Company (YAEC or licensee) proposed to amend the facility Possession Only License No. DPR-3 for the Yankee Nuclear Power Station (YNPS or plant) by deleting License Condition 2.C.(10) which states: "The licensee shall maintain a Fitness for Duty Program in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 26." YAEC stated in its March 24 letter: "YAEC plans to continue a fitness-for-duty program in its entirety. At its own discretion, YAEC may elect to modify one or all of the elements of the fitness-for-duty program in the future."

2.0 BACKGROUND

The reactor was first made critical in 1960, began commercial operation in 1961, and operated until permanent shutdown on October 1, 1991. The nuclear steam supply system was a four-loop pressurized-water reactor designed by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. A Possession Only License was issued on August 5, 1992. On December 20, 1993, YAEC submitted a Decommissioning Plan (Plan) and requested NRC approval of the Plan. In an NRC Order dated February 14, 1995, and subsequently by letter dated October 28, 1996, the Plan was approved. The Plan permitted YAEC to decontaminate and dismantle the structures and components at the site. Decommissioning activities have been proceeding under the approved Plan. As of summer 1999, about 80 percent of the systems not required to support the storage of spent fuel have been dismantled and removed. The spent fuel pool and support systems associated with fuel storage have been electrically and mechanically isolated from all other remaining plant systems so that spent fuel would not be adversely impacted by future site activities.

3.0 EVALUATION

As noted in Section 1.0, INTRODUCTION, the licensee intends to maintain the YNPS Fitness for Duty Program. By letter dated January 12, 1998, to the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company, the staff stated that 10 CFR Part 26 pertains only to licensees authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor. Based on these considerations, the staff concludes that deletion of License Condition 2.C.(10) from the YNPS License DPR-3 is acceptable.

- (5) Deleted by Amendment No. 147.
- (6) Deleted by Amendment No. 148.
- (7) Deleted by Amendment No. 148.
- (8) Deleted by Amendment No. 148.
- (9) The movement of special nuclear material used as reactor fuel into the Vapor Container (containment) is prohibited.
- (10) Deleted by Amendment No. 152

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes administrative requirements. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

6.0 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.

Principal Contributor: Morton Fairtile

Dated: August 27, 1999