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[Docket Nos. 50-254 and 50-265]

Commonwealth Edison Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed no Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity For a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR– 29 and DPR–30 issued to Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee) for operation of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Rock Island County, Illinois.

The proposed amendment would upgrade the Quad Cities TS to the standard Technical Specifications (STS) contained in NUREG-0123. The Technical Specification Upgrade Program (TSUP) is not a complete adaption of the STS. The TS upgrade focuses on (1) integrating additional information such as equipment operability requirements during shutdown conditions, (2) clarifying requirements such as limiting conditions for operation and action statements utilizing STS terminology, (3) deleting superseded requirements and modifications to the TS based on the licensee's responses to Generic Letters (GL), and (4) relocating specific items to more appropriate TS locations. The September 20, 1995, application proposed to upgrade only Section 6.0 (Administrative Controls) of the Quad Cities TS.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. 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:

The proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because:

In general, the proposed amendment represents the conversion of current requirements to a more generic format, or the addition of requirements which are based on the current safety analyses. Implementation of these changes will provide increased reliability of equipment assumed to operate in the current safety analyses, or provide continued assurance that specified parameters remain with-in their acceptance limits, and as such, will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of a previously evaluated accident.

Some of the proposed changes represent minor curtailments of the current requirements which are based on generic guidance or previously approved provisions for other stations. The proposed amendment for Quad Cities Station's Technical Specification Section 6.0 are based on STS guidelines or later operating plant's NRC accepted changes. Any deviations from STS requirements do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any previously evaluated accidents for Quad Cities Station. The proposed amendment is consistent with the current safety analyses and has been previously determined to represent sufficient requirements for the assurance and reliability of equipment assumed to operate in the safety analyses, or provide continued assurance that specified parameters remain within their acceptance limits. As such, these changes will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of a previously evaluated accident.

Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated because:

In general, the proposed amendment represents the conversion of current requirements to a more generic format, or the addition of requirements which are based on the current safety analyses. Others represent minor curtailments of the current requirements which are based on generic guidance or previously approved provisions for other stations. These changes do not involve revisions to the design of the station. Some of the changes may involve revision in the operation of the station; however, these provide additional restrictions which are in accordance with the current safety analyses, or are to provide for additional testing or surveillances which will not introduce new failure mechanisms beyond those already considered in the current safety analyses.

The proposed amendment for Quad Cities Station's Technical Specification Section 6.0 is based on STS guidelines or later operating plants' NRC accepted changes. The proposed amendment has been reviewed for acceptability at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station considering similarity of system or component design versus the STS or later operating plants. Any deviations from STS requirements do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident previously evaluated for Quad Cities Station. No new modes of operation are introduced by the proposed changes. The proposed changes maintain at least the present level of operability. Therefore, the proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

Involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety because:

In general, the proposed amendment represents the conversion of current requirements to a more generic format, or the addition of requirements which are based on the current safety analyses. Others represent minor curtailments of the current requirements which are based on generic guidance or previously approved provisions for other stations. Some of the later individual items may introduce minor reductions in the margin of safety when compared to the current requirements. However, other individual changes are the adoption of new requirements which will provide significant enhancement of the reliability of the equipment assumed to operate in the safety analyses, or provide enhanced assurance that specified parameters remain with their acceptance limits. These enhancements compensate for the individual minor reductions, such that taken together, the proposed changes will not significantly reduce the margin of safety

The proposed amendment to Technical Specification Section 6.0 implements present requirements, or the intent of present requirements in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the STS. Any deviations from STS requirements do not significantly reduce the margin of safety for Dresden or Quad Cities Station. The proposed changes are intended to improve readability, usability, and the understanding of technical specification requirements while maintaining acceptable levels of safe operation. The proposed changes have been evaluated and found to be acceptable for use at Quad Cities based on system design, safety analyses requirements and operational performance. Since the proposed changes are based on NRC accepted provisions at other operating plants that are applicable at Quad Cities and maintain necessary levels of system or component reliability, the proposed changes do not involve a significant reduction in the 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.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.