

June 2, 2000

Mr. Robert G. Byram
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
PP&L, Inc.
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, PA 18101

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE: CHANGE OF IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR AMENDMENT NO. 184 FOR UNIT 1 AND AMENDMENT NO. 158 FOR UNIT 2 (TAC NOS. MA8479 AND MA8480)

Dear Mr. Byram:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 187 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 and Amendment No. 161 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2. These amendments consist of changes to the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2 in response to your application dated March 14, 2000, as supplemented by your letters dated March 27 and May 25, 2000. The May 25, 2000, letter provides clarifying information but did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination. The amendment does not alter any of the requirements in the SSES, Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications.

These amendments extend the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2 from 30 days following startup from the Unit 1 Spring 2000 refueling outage to no later than November 1, 2001. Amendments 184 and 158 approved TS changes to incorporate requirements related to oscillation power range monitoring (OPRM) instrumentation. The implementation date extension is needed to provide time to address continuing hardware and software deficiencies with the OPRM system.

R. Byram

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A copy of our safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's Biweekly Federal Register Notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 187 to
License No. NPF-14
2. Amendment No. 161 to
License No. NPF-22
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

R. Byram

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PP&L, INC.

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-387

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 187
License No. NPF-14

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) having found that:
 - A. The application for the amendment filed by PP&L, Inc., dated March 14, 2000, as supplemented March 27 and May 25, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 is amended to extend the implementation date of Amendment No. 184 issued July 30, 1999, to November 1, 2001.
3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA by Timothy G. Colburn for/

Marsha. Gamberoni, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: June 2, 2000

PP&L, INC.

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-388

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 161
License No. NPF-22

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) having found that:
 - A. The application for the amendment filed by the PP&L, Inc., dated March 14, 2000, as supplemented March 27 and May 25, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 is amended to extend the implementation date of Amendment No. 158 issued July 30, 1999, to November 1, 2001.
3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA by Timothy G. Colburn for/

Marsha Gamberoni, Acting Chief, Section I
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: June 2, 2000

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 187 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-14
AMENDMENT NO. 161 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-22
PP&L, INC.
ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-387 AND 50-388

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 14, 2000, as supplemented March 27 and May 25, 2000, PP&L, Inc. (the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, (SSES) facility operating licenses. The requested changes would revise the required implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2. Amendments 184 and 158 approved Technical Specifications (TSs) changes to incorporate requirements related to oscillation power range monitoring (OPRM) instrumentation. The licensee stated that the implementation date extension is needed to provide time to address unresolved deficiencies with the OPRM system. The May 25, 2000, letter provided clarifying information but did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 EVALUATION

In Amendment 184 to the Unit 1 TSs and Amendment 158 to the Unit 2 TSs, the TSs were amended to incorporate TS 3.3.1.3, "Oscillation Power Range Monitoring (OPRM) Instrumentation," and to revise TS 3.4.1, "Recirculation Loops, Operating," to remove specifications related to thermal-hydraulic stability. The OPRM instrumentation is intended to automatically detect and suppress reactor core power instabilities. With full implementation of the OPRM system, the thermal-hydraulic stability requirements of TS 3.4.1 will no longer be required.

Amendments 184 and 158 were issued with a required implementation date of 30 days following startup from the Unit 1 Spring 2000 refueling outage. The licensee stated that hardware and software design deficiencies have affected its ability to install and operate the OPRM system. Corrective actions for the hardware problems have been implemented; however, software changes have not been completed. The licensee stated that there is

insufficient time to install and validate the effectiveness of the software changes prior to the currently scheduled implementation date for Amendments 184 and 158.

The licensee requested that the required implementation date for Amendments 184 and 158 be revised from 30 days following startup from the Unit 1 Spring 2000 refueling outage to no later than November 1, 2001. The revised implementation date is expected to provide sufficient time for adjustments by the vendor, pre-installation testing and calibration by the licensee, and a reasonable period of operation in order to monitor the system's final readiness.

The licensee is currently operating in accordance with interim corrective actions defined in TS 3.4.1. These requirements define operating restrictions that are intended to ensure that the plant is not operated under combinations of thermal power and core flow that are conducive to thermal-hydraulic instability. These requirements will remain in effect during the extended implementation period. Therefore, the licensee will continue to have requirements in place that provide adequate core protection during the extended implementation period.

Based on the information provided above, the staff finds the proposed change to the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 to Facility Operating License NPF-14 and Amendment No. 158 to Facility Operating License NPF-22 to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (65 FR 24718). Accordingly, the amendments meet eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

5.0 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 amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: R. Schaaf

Date: June 2, 2000

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Units 1 &2

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