

June 14, 2000

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Chief Nuclear Officer & President
Nuclear Business Unit
Public Service Electric & Gas
Company
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT RE: FUEL HANDLING AREA VENTILATION SYSTEM
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE (TAC NOS. MA5267 AND MA5268)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 231 and 211 to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75 for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. These amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated April 14, 1999, as supplemented by your letter dated March 2, 2000.

These amendments revise TS 3/4.9.12, "Fuel Handling Area Ventilation System," to bring more consistency between the two Salem units, remove inappropriate and invalid surveillance requirements, and clarify the Bases. The March 2, 2000, letter modified your April 14, 1999, request by removing the changes associated with filter testing, which are being reviewed by the staff under your license amendment request submitted in response to Generic Letter 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal."

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 J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 231 to
License No. DPR-70
2. Amendment No. 211 to
License No. DPR-75
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-272

SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 231
License No. DPR-70

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Philadelphia Electric Company, Delmarva Power and Light Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) dated April 14, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated March 2, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and 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 rules and 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, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-70 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 231 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: June 14, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 231

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-70

DOCKET NO. 50-272

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached revised pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change. Overleaf pages have been provided.

Remove Pages

3/4 9-12

3/4 9-13

3/4 9-14

3/4 9-15

B 3/4 9-4

Insert Pages

3/4 9-12

3/4 9-13

3/4 9-14

3/4 9-15

B 3/4 9-4

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-311

SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 211
License No. DPR-75

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Philadelphia Electric Company, Delmarva Power and Light Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) dated April 14, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated March 2, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and 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 rules and 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, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-75 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 211 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: June 14, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 211

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-75

DOCKET NO. 50-311

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached revised pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change. Overleaf pages have been provided.

Remove Pages

3/4 9-13

3/4 9-14

B 3/4 9-4

Insert Pages

3/4 9-13

3/4 9-14

B 3/4 9-4

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 231 AND 211 TO FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated April 14, 1999, as supplemented March 2, 2000, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G or the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). These changes would revise TS 3/4.9.12, "Fuel Handling Area Ventilation System," to reference the latest filter testing standards, bring consistency between units, remove inappropriate and invalid surveillance requirements (SR), and clarify the Bases. On June 3, 1999, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal." By letter dated November 24, 1999, PSE&G responded to the GL requesting changes to the TSs to reference the latest filter testing standards. By letter dated March 2, 2000, PSE&G modified the changes requested in the April 14, 1999, letter by withdrawing the portion associated with filter testing. The November 24, 1999, TS change will be reviewed as a separate action under TAC Nos. MA7381 and MA7382. The information contained in the March 2, 2000, letter did not change the conclusions of the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination or expand the scope of the amendment.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The fuel handling area ventilation system (FHAVS) is comprised of one 100-percent capacity supply fan, two 50-percent capacity exhaust fans, one 100-percent capacity high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter and one 100-percent capacity HEPA plus charcoal filter exhaust unit. The FHAVS has no redundancy because it only has one 100-percent capacity charcoal filtration train.

The FHAVS supply and exhaust fans are normally in service, providing the necessary airflow for temperature and contamination control (via the HEPA filter) of the fuel handling area. On detection of high area radiation, the FHAVS exhaust dampers automatically align to direct the exhaust airflow through the HEPA-plus-charcoal filter exhaust unit. For Unit 2, the FHAVS fans also receive an automatic start signal on detection of high area radiation signal in addition to the signal generated to automatically align the dampers to direct the exhaust airflow through the HEPA-plus-charcoal filter exhaust unit.

3.0 EVALUATION

3.1 TS Surveillance Requirements

The amendment request for Units 1 and 2 proposes to add the following new surveillance to TS Section SR 4.9.12:

“Prior to and during movement of irradiated fuel assemblies or crane operation over the storage pool in the Fuel Handling Building:

1. Both exhaust fans and one supply fan must be OPERABLE and operating with flow being directed through the HEPA and charcoal filters.
2. All dampers required to divert the entire airflow through the HEPA/charcoal filter train are OPERABLE and in the position required to divert full exhaust flow through the HEPA/charcoal filter train.
3. Ductwork, dampers and housings which will ensure all post-accident exhausted air is processed through the HEPA/charcoal filter train are intact.
4. The fuel handling area is maintained at a negative pressure equal to or more negative than 1/8 inch water gauge relative to the outside atmosphere, and
5. At least once per 24 hours verify both exhaust fans and one supply fan operating with the entire flow being directed through the HEPA and charcoal filters.”

In addition, the amendment request for Unit 1 proposes to delete the following surveillance (TS Section SR 4.9.12.d.3):

“Verifying that on a high radiation test signal, the system automatically directs its exhaust flow through the HEPA filters and charcoal adsorber banks.”

The amendment request for Unit 2 proposes to delete the following surveillance (TS Section SR 4.9.12.d.2):

“Verifying that on a high radiation test signal, the system automatically starts (unless already operating) and directs its exhaust flow through the HEPA filters and charcoal adsorber banks.”

The above proposed change to TS Section 3/4.9.12 will require the HEPA and charcoal filters to be in service prior to moving irradiated fuel in the Fuel Handling Building. This will be accomplished by the addition of the new SR 4.9.12.b. The new surveillance will also require verification of system line up every 24 hours during fuel movement or crane operation to ensure system flow through the HEPA-charcoal filter train. Upon implementation of this new SR, automatic actuation of this circuit is no longer required, since the system will already be in operation under the conditions that previously required this feature. Therefore, PSE&G is eliminating the SR to test the automatic actuation feature, since it is no longer required.

The radiation detectors which provide this function are TS items and are unaffected by this change request. They are not being deleted from the TS (Table 3.3-6) since they perform other necessary functions (i.e., alarm functions) not requiring safety-related actuation circuitry.

The proposed new surveillance will also eliminate the only system difference created by the wording difference between the Salem units. The Unit 2 TS SR 4.9.12.d.2 does not clearly reflect the original system design basis which provides a source of confusion. The surveillance states, in part; "...the system automatically starts (unless already operating) and directs...", this phrase can be assumed and was assumed to imply that an automatic start signal to the fans is available and, therefore, a feature that should be tested. As a result of this wording difference, a design change was implemented during the extended shutdown of Salem Unit 2 to automatically start the system fan on a high radiation signal. Since submittal of the original Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR), only the dampers directing the effluent through the "normal" HEPA filter were required to automatically shift to divert the effluent through the HEPA-plus-charcoal filter unit on a high radiation signal. There was no fan start signal generated. This aspect of system design has not changed. The installed design change in Unit 2 has created an unnecessary difference between the Salem Units.

The staff has concluded that by pre-aligning the filter train to the accident alignment prior to and during fuel movement or crane operation maintains the capability of the FHAVS to perform its safety function by minimizing the potential consequences of any active single failure of the FHAVS. This action ensures that the FHAVS is operable, that no undetected failures preventing system operation will occur, and that any active failure will be readily detected. Consequently, the staff has determined that with the proposed pre-alignment of the FHAVS in SR 4.9.12.b it is unnecessary to perform the surveillance tests in SR 4.9.12.d.3 and SR 4.9.12.d.2 to determine the system automatically initiates on a high radiation test signal. Therefore, the staff finds the above proposed changes to be acceptable.

3.2 TS Bases

The licensee modified the TS Bases to reflect the change. Since the Bases are not a part of the TS, the staff reviewed the Bases only to assure consistency with the proposed change. The staff is not approving the Bases change, but is including the revised Bases pages for completeness.

3.3 Staff's Conclusion

On the basis of its evaluation, the staff concludes that the proposed TS changes are acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

5.0 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 and change surveillance requirements. 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 (64 FR 29715). Accordingly, the amendments meet the 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.

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

Principal Contributor: J. Segala

Date: June 14, 2000