

August 24, 2000

The Honorable Mary Ann Dailey
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
House Box 202020
South Office Building
Room 408
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Ms. Dailey:

I am responding to your letter of June 19, 2000, to the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your letter, you requested that the NRC review a proposal for the construction and operation of a 500-megawatt gas-fired generating facility on property adjacent to the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Limerick 1 and 2), a nuclear power plant owned by PECO Energy Company (PECO). Your letter specifically requested that the NRC determine if this project poses a threat to the health, safety, or life of residents in nearby communities. Your request included the need for the NRC to determine if a fire or explosion at the proposed facility would pose a threat to Limerick 1 and 2.

From the information we currently have, it appears that the project is still in the planning stages and, if ever approved, is several years away from completion. Under the NRC's regulatory framework for oversight of nuclear power plants, PECO, in the first instance, has the burden to determine the impact of the proposed natural gas-fired facility on the safe operation of Limerick Generating Station, and appropriately inform the relevant State and Federal regulatory agencies. This framework notwithstanding, however, the NRC has an independent responsibility to assure that public health and safety is maintained from operation of nuclear power plants. In this role, the NRC independently evaluates available information, including licensee actions or assessments, to either confirm the appropriateness of the licensee's assessments or actions, or to determine if further regulatory action is warranted. In this instance, given the uncertainties associated with approval and construction of a nearby gas-fired facility, it is not now necessary to seek such information.

In any event, as part of its application for construction permits and operating licenses for Limerick 1 and 2, PECO was required to perform an analysis of the effects of potential hazards from nearby industrial facilities. This analysis is documented in the Limerick 1 and 2 Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). If construction becomes imminent, PECO is required by NRC regulations to notify the NRC should PECO determine, with respect to the operation of the Limerick facility, that the proposed natural gas-fired facility would significantly affect public health and safety. In addition, should PECO determine that the proposed natural gas-fired facility would necessitate changes to the Limerick facility to ensure continued protection of public health and safety, PECO must determine whether prior NRC approval of the change is required. If prior NRC approval is required, PECO must submit an application to amend its operating license prior to implementing such a change. Environmental protection issues regarding the storage of ammonia and the impact of toxins that might be emitted from the operation of the proposed gas-fired facility are within the jurisdiction

M. A. Dailey

-2-

of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality. By copy of this letter, your concern has been forwarded to that State agency. In addition, if the licensee identifies any impact from postulated toxins which would necessitate a change to the facility, the NRC would evaluate those changes affecting the FSAR or the facility license.

I trust this information is useful to you in addressing your concerns about the proposed construction and operation of the gas-fired facility near the Limerick facility.

Sincerely,

/RA by Frank J. Miraglia Acting For/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Mr. James M. Salvaggio, Director of Air Quality Control
Bureau of Air Quality
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8468
Harrison, PA 17105

M. A. Dailey

-2-

Environmental protection issues regarding the storage of ammonia and the impact of toxins that might be emitted from the operation of the proposed gas-fired facility are within the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality. By copy of this letter, your concern has been forwarded to that State agency. In addition, if the licensee identifies any impact from postulated toxins which would necessitate a change to the facility, the NRC would evaluate those changes affecting the FSAR or the facility license.

I trust this information is useful to you in addressing your concerns about the proposed construction and operation of the gas-fired facility near the Limerick facility.

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William D. Travers
Executive Director
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cc: Mr. James M. Salvaggio, Director of Air Quality Control
Bureau of Air Quality
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Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8468
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Licensee and Service List

Accession Number: ML003732673

*See Previous Concurrence

OFFICE	PDI-2/PM		PDI-2/LA		PDI-2/SC		PDI-2/D		TECH ED*	
NAME	B.Buckley		M.O'Brien		J.Clifford		E.Adensam*		B.Calure	
DATE	8/23/00		8/23/00		8/23/00		7/21/00		7/18/00	
OFFICE	DLPM/DD		DLPM/D		NRR/ADPT		NRR/D		EDO	
NAME	S.Black*		JZwolinski*		B.Sheron*		S.Collins*		W.Travers	
DATE	7/20/00		7/21/00		7/21/00		7/21/00		8/24/00	
OFFICE	OGC									
NAME	M.Young*									
DATE	7/31/00									

Official Record Copy

Letter to: The Honorable Mary Ann Dailey
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Date: August 24, 2000

Re: Green Ticket #20000336 (TAC No. MA9480A)

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC (G20000336, Docket Nos. 50-352/353,
TAC No. MA9480A, w/incoming)

PDI-2 R/F (GT20000336, Docket Nos. 50-352/353
TAC No. MA9480A, w/incoming)

EDO #G20000336

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W.Travers

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S.Burns

W.Kane

K.Cyr

B.Sheron

J.Clifford

E.Adensam

NRR Mail Room (EDO#G2000336 w/incoming) (05/E/7)

OGC

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SECY (LTR-00-0455)

B.Buckley w/incoming

M.Oprende, RGNI

M.King

M.McAllister

M.O'Brien

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

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