October 16, 2000

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS (TAC NOS. MA8828 AND MA8829)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 143 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-11 and Amendment No. 129 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-18 for the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments are in response to your application dated May 1, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated August 11, 2000.

The amendments revise Technical Specification 3/4.8.1, "A. C. Sources - Operating," to permit functional testing of the emergency diesel generators to be performed during power operation.

A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373, 50-374

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 143 to NPF-11
2. Amendment No. 129 to NPF-18
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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* Input provided by memo dated 9-11-00

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

October 16, 2000

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The amendments revise Technical Specification 3/4.8.1, "A. C. Sources - Operating," to permit functional testing of the emergency diesel generators to be performed during power operation.

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Sincerely,

Donna M. Skay

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373, 50-374

Enclosures:
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cc w/encls: See next page

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

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-373

LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 143
License No. NPF-11

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment filed by the Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee), dated May 1, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated August 11, 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, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the enclosure to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-11 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 143 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: October 16, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 143

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-11

DOCKET NO. 50-373

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain a vertical line indicating the area of change.

REMOVE	INSERT
3/4 8-7	3/4 8-7
B 3/4 8-2	B 3/4 8-2

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

generator voltage and frequency shall be maintained within these limits during this test. Within 5 minutes after completing this 24 hour test, perform Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.4.**,#

9. Verifying* that the auto-connected loads to each diesel generator do not exceed the 2000 hour rating of 2860 kW.

10. Verifying the diesel generator's capability* to:

    a) Synchronize with the offsite power source while the generator is loaded with its emergency loads upon a simulated restoration of offsite power.

    b) Transfer its loads to the offsite power source, and

    c) Be restored to its standby status.

11. Verifying that with diesel generator O, 1A, and 1B operating* in a test mode and connected to its bus:

    a) For Divisions 1 and 2, that a simulated ECCS actuation signal overrides the test mode by returning the diesel generator to standby operation.

    b) For Division 3, that a simulated trip of the diesel generator overcurrent relay trips the SAT feed breaker to bus 143 and that the diesel generator continues to supply normal bus loads.

12. Verifying that the automatic load sequence timer is OPERABLE with the interval between each load block within +10% of its design interval for diesel generators 0 and 1A.

13. Verifying that the following diesel generator lockout features prevent diesel generator operation only when required:

---

*All planned diesel generator starts performed for the purpose of meeting these surveillance requirements may be preceded by an engine prelube period, as recommended by the manufacturer.

**If Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.4 is not satisfactorily completed, it is not necessary to repeat the preceding 24 hour test. Instead, the diesel generator may be operated at 2600 kW for 2 hours or until operating temperature has stabilized.

#This test may be performed during power operation provided that the other required diesel generators are OPERABLE. Should any of the other required diesel generators become inoperable, the test shall be aborted.

A.C. SOURCES AND ONSITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (Continued)

Analysis has shown that testing, which includes a semi-annual fast start of the diesel generators, is sufficient to demonstrate the capability of the onsite A.C. power systems to mitigate the consequences of the design basis event for the plant (i.e., large LOCA coincident with a loss-of-offsite power). All other engine starts, for the purpose of meeting the diesel generator surveillance requirements, may be preceded by a warm-up period of low speed operation (idle start), and general loading procedures, as recommended by the manufacturer, so that the mechanical stress and wear on the diesel generators is minimized. The load band of 2400 kW to 2600 kW is provided only to avoid routine overloading of the diesel generators. Momentary transients, outside the load band, due to changing bus loads do not invalidate the surveillance tests.

The 24-hour endurance and margin test and subsequent hot start test, Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.d.8, may be performed during power operation provided that the other required diesel generators are OPERABLE. Should any of the other required diesel generators become inoperable, the test will be aborted.

The surveillance requirements for demonstrating the OPERABILITY of the unit batteries are in accordance with the recommendations of Regulatory Guide 1.129, "Maintenance Testing and Replacement of Large Lead Storage Batteries for Nuclear Power Plants," February 1978, and IEEE Std 450-1980, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Large Lead Storage Batteries for Generating Station and Substations."

Verifying average electrolyte temperature above the minimum for which the battery was sized, total battery terminal voltage onfloat charge, connection resistance values and the performance of battery service and discharge tests ensures the effectiveness of the charging system, the ability to handle high discharge rates and compares the battery capacity at that time with the rated capacity.

Table 4.8.2.3.2-1 specifies the normal limits for each designated pilot cell and each connected cell for electrolyte level, float voltage and specific gravity. The limits for the designated pilot cells float voltage and specific gravity, greater than 2.13 volts and 0.015 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity or a battery charger current that had stabilized at a low value, is characteristic of a charged cell with adequate capacity. The normal limits for each connected cell for float voltage and specific gravity, greater than 2.13 volts and not more than 0.020 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity with an average specific gravity of all the connected cells not more than 0.010 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity, ensures the OPERABILITY and capability of the battery.

Operation with a battery cell's parameter outside the normal limit but within the allowable value specified in Table 4.8.2.3.2-1 is permitted for up to 7 days. During this 7 day period: (1) the allowable values for electrolyte level ensures no physical damage to the plates with an adequate electron transfer capability; (2) the allowable value for the average specific gravity of all the cells, not more than 0.020 below the manufacturer's recommended full charge

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

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-374

LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 129
License No. NPF-18

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment filed by the Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee), dated May 1, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated August 11, 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.

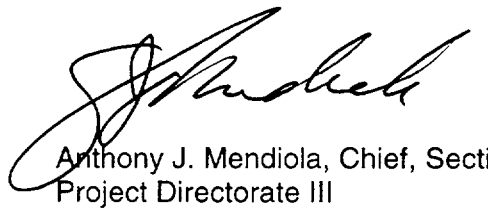
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the enclosure to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-18 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 129 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: October 16, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 129

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-18

DOCKET NO. 50-374

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain a vertical line indicating the area of change.

REMOVE	INSERT
3/4 8-7	3/4 8-7
B 3/4 8-2	B 3/4 8-2

generator voltage and frequency shall be maintained within these limits during this test. Within 5 minutes after completing this 24 hour test, perform Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.4.**,#

9. Verifying* that the auto-connected loads to each diesel generator do not exceed the 2000-hour rating of 2860 kW.

10. Verifying the diesel generator's capability* to:

    a) Synchronize with the offsite power source while the generator is loaded with its emergency loads upon a simulated restoration of offsite power,

    b) Transfer its loads to the offsite power source, and

    c) Be restored to its standby status.

11. Verifying that with diesel generator 0, 2A, and 2B operating* in a test mode and connected to its bus:

    a) For Divisions 1 and 2, that a simulated ECCS actuation signal overrides the test mode by returning the diesel generator to standby operation.

    b) For Division 3, that a simulated trip of the diesel generator overcurrent relay trips the SAT feed breaker to bus 243 and that the diesel generator continues to supply normal bus loads.

12. Verifying that the automatic load sequence timer is OPERABLE with the interval between each load block within ±10% of its design interval for diesel generators 0 and 2A.

13. Verifying that the following diesel generator lockout features prevent diesel generator operation only when required:

*All planned diesel generator starts performed for the purpose of meeting these surveillance requirements may be preceded by an engine prelube period, as recommended by the manufacturer.

**If Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.4 is not satisfactorily completed, it is not necessary to repeat the preceding 24 hour test. Instead, the diesel generator may be operated at 2600 kW for 2 hours or until operating temperature has stabilized.

#This test may be performed during power operation provided that the other required diesel generators are OPERABLE. Should any of the other required diesel generators become inoperable, the test shall be aborted.

A.C. SOURCES AND ONSITE POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (Continued)

Analysis has shown that testing, which includes a semi-annual fast start of the diesel generators, is sufficient to demonstrate the capability of the onsite A.C. power systems to mitigate the consequences of the design basis event for the plant (i.e., large LOCA coincident with a loss-of-offsite power). All other engine starts, for the purpose of meeting the diesel generator surveillance requirements, may be preceded by a warm-up period of low speed operation (idle start), and general loading procedures, as recommended by the manufacturer, so that the mechanical stress and wear on the diesel generators is minimized. The load band of 2400 kW to 2600 kW is provided only to avoid routine overloading of the diesel generators. Momentary transients, outside the load band, due to changing bus loads do not invalidate the surveillance tests.

The 24-hour endurance and margin test and subsequent hot start test, Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.d.8, may be performed during power operation provided that the other required diesel generators are OPERABLE. Should any of the other required diesel generators become inoperable, the test will be aborted.

The surveillance requirements for demonstrating the OPERABILITY of the unit batteries are in accordance with the recommendations of Regulatory Guide 1.129, "Maintenance Testing and Replacement of Large Lead Storage Batteries for Nuclear Power Plants," February 1978, and IEEE Std 450-1980, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Large Lead Storage Batteries for Generating Station and Substations."

Verifying average electrolyte temperature above the minimum for which the battery was sized, total battery terminal voltage onfloat charge, connection resistance values and the performance of battery service and discharge tests ensures the effectiveness of the charging system, the ability to handle high discharge rates and compares the battery capacity at that time with the rated capacity.

Table 4.8.2.3.2-1 specifies the normal limits for each designated pilot cell and each connected cell for electrolyte level, float voltage and specific gravity. The limits for the designated pilot cells float voltage and specific gravity, greater than 2.13 volts and 0.015 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity or a battery charger current that had stabilized at a low value, is characteristic of a charged cell with adequate capacity. The normal limits for each connected cell for float voltage and specific gravity, greater than 2.13 volts and not more than 0.020 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity with an average specific gravity of all the connected cells not more than 0.010 below the manufacturer's full charge specific gravity, ensures the OPERABILITY and capability of the battery.

Operation with a battery cell's parameter outside the normal limit but within the allowable value specified in Table 4.8.2.3.2-1 is permitted for up to 7 days. During this 7 day period: (1) the allowable values for electrolyte level ensures no physical damage to the plates with an adequate electron transfer capability; (2) the allowable value for the average specific gravity of all the cells, not more than 0.020 below the manufacturer's recommended full charge

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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 143 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-11

AND AMENDMENT NO. 129 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-18

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 1, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated August 11, 2000, Commonwealth Edison Company (the licensee) proposed changes to LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs) related to diesel generator surveillance testing. The proposed change would revise TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.8.1.1.2.d.8 to add a footnote that would permit performance of the 24-hour endurance test of the emergency diesel generators (EDGs) during power operation. Currently, this SR is required to be performed at least once per 18 months during shutdown; the proposed change would permit the 24-hour test to be performed during power operation provided the remaining EDGs are operable. If either of the two remaining EDGs becomes inoperable, the test shall be aborted. Performing this test during power operation would help simplify and shorten scheduling of the EDG testing and surveillance window during a refueling outage. The licensee has also proposed associated changes to Bases Section 3/4.8.1 and 3/4.8.2.

The supplemental information contained clarifying information and did not change the initial no significant hazards consideration determination and did not expand the scope of the original Federal Register notice.

2.0 EVALUATION

SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.8 currently requires, at least once per 18 months during shutdown, verification that each of the required diesel generators operates for at least 24 hours. During the first 2 hours of this test, the tested diesel generator shall be loaded to greater than or equal to 2860 kW and during the remaining 22 hours of this test, the diesel generator shall be loaded to 2400 kW to 2600 kW. The generator voltage and frequency shall be 4160 +420, -150 volts and 60+3.0, -1.2 Hz within 13 seconds after the start signal; the steady state generator voltage and frequency shall be maintained within these limits during this test. This test is now performed only during shutdown. The licensee has proposed to perform this surveillance during power operation. Performing this test during power operation would help simplify and shorten the scheduling of the EDG testing and surveillance window during a refueling outage.

The proposed change will add a footnote to SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.8 related to the 24-hour functional test of the EDGs which would permit functional testing of the EDGs to be performed during power operation. The proposed footnote to SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.8 reads as follows:

> This test may be performed during power operation provided that the other required diesel generators are OPERABLE. Should any of the other required diesel generators become inoperable, the test shall be aborted.

The proposed change will not reduce availability of the EDG being tested to provide emergency power, as follows: During the 24-hour functional test, the EDG is loaded by paralleling with the offsite power system. Each unit of LaSalle has three EDGs: Division 1 (an EDG that is shared with the opposite unit), Division 2, and Division 3. Only one EDG is paralleled to the offsite source at any one time. Thus, the testing does not affect the independent safe shutdown capabilities of the remaining EDGs or the emergency buses. Should an accident occur while an EDG is operating in the test mode, the emergency actuation signal overrides the test mode, trips the EDG breaker, returns the EDG to standby operation and automatically energizes the emergency bus loads with offsite power. This transfer feature is tested once per refueling cycle in accordance with SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.11.a. If a loss of offsite power occurs following the emergency actuation signal, the bus undervoltage relays will cause load shedding and allow the EDG output breaker to automatically close. The EDG will then pick up the emergency loads with load sequencing as designed. Thus, an EDG operating in the test mode will be available to perform its intended safety function.

Should an accident occur while the Division 3 EDG is paralleled with offsite power, the design does not cause a trip of the EDG output breaker because Division 3 carries only one load (High Pressure Core Spray System(HPCS)). In the event the Division 3 EDG is operating in parallel with the grid and an emergency signal is actuated, the High Pressure Core Spray (HPCS) pump, if called upon to start, will be automatically loaded on to the bus. This additional load will not overload the EDG but will be picked up by the grid, as follows. The additional load of the HPCS on the diesel engine would tend to reduce its speed. Since the EDG is in parallel with the grid, the engine speed cannot decrease, so the effect is that the additional load of the HPCS is transferred to the grid. The licensee states that this feature was tested during pre-operational testing for the Division 3 EDGs. The test demonstrated that the EDGs continued to run as designed with the HPCS pump running as required. If an overcurrent were to occur due to a grid disturbance or fault, the bus Station Auxiliary Transformer (SAT) feed breaker opens to clear the overcurrent condition and the EDG continues to supply the bus loads, including emergency loads, if present. This overcurrent trip function is verified by SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.11.b. Thus, the EDG operating in the test mode will be available to perform its intended safety function.

In the event of a loss of offsite power to the bus paralleled to the grid without an accident, no load shedding or sequencing will take place because the EDG will maintain the voltage on the associated bus. The EDG would attempt to provide power to the bus and to the offsite power system through the closed offsite power feed breaker. In this case, the EDG breaker will trip on overcurrent and lock out, and would require operator action to reset the relay. However, adequate capacity is available from the remaining EDGs to power the remaining divisions, and the remaining divisions will have the required equipment operable to mitigate the consequences

of a design-basis accident or loss of offsite power. The licensee states that the most likely loss of offsite power would be a SAT trip, which will cause the connected bus breakers to trip, and the EDG will continue to supply the running loads. Thus, the EDG will be available to perform its intended function.

At LaSalle, the EDGs are paralleled to the grid during power operation to satisfy a monthly test. The licensee states that there would be no difference between the system lineup for the monthly test and the lineup for the 24-hour functional test. Further, the licensee stated that it would perform the 24-hour test during power operation provided that the other remaining EDGs are operable. If the other EDGs are not available, the test shall be aborted.

3.0 SUMMMARY

The staff concludes that performance of this test during power operation is acceptable based on the following: (1) the Division 1 and 2 EDGs are equipped with a design feature that allows the EDGs to automatically switch from the test mode to the standby mode on the receipt of an accident signal; (2) during the 24-hour test of an EDG, no other EDG is operated in parallel with the offsite power grid; and (3) assuming a loss of offsite power and a single failure of an EDG, adequate capacity is available from the remaining EDGs to power the remaining divisions.

Therefore, the staff has determined that the proposed change to SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.8 is acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Illinois 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 surveillance requirement. 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 37423). 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: O. Chopra

Date: October 16, 2000