

March 12, 1997

Mr. Charles H. Cruse
Vice President - Nuclear Energy
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657-4702

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING, CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M98093)

Dear Mr. Cruse:

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to
publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to
Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration
Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing." This notice relates to your
application for amendment to Operating License No. DPR-69 dated March 6, 1997,
to allow a modification to the Unit 2 Service Water System (SWS) which
constitutes an unreviewed safety question as described in 10 CFR 50.59. The
proposed change is necessary to increase the pressure in SWS above the fluid
saturation point, thus providing a means to prevent boiling in the containment
air coolers.

Sincerely,
/s/

Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-318

Enclosure: Notice of Consideration

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 12, 1997

Mr. Charles H. Cruse
Vice President - Nuclear Energy
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657-4702

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING, CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. M98093)

Dear Mr. Cruse:

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendment to Operating License No. DPR-69 dated March 6, 1997, to allow a modification to the Unit 2 Service Water System (SWS) which constitutes an unreviewed safety question as described in 10 CFR 50.59. The proposed change is necessary to increase the pressure in SWS above the fluid saturation point, thus providing a means to prevent boiling in the containment air coolers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander W. Dromerick".

Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-318

Enclosure: Notice of Consideration

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Charles H. Cruse
Baltimore Gas & Electric Company

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

President
Calvert County Board of
Commissioners
175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Mr. Joseph H. Walter, Chief Engineer
Public Service Commission of
Maryland
Engineering Division
6 St. Paul Centre
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

James P. Bennett, Esquire
Counsel
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 1475
Baltimore, MD 21203

Kristen A. Burger, Esquire
Maryland People's Counsel
6 St. Paul Centre
Suite 2102
Baltimore, MD 21202-1631

Jay E. Silberg, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Patricia T. Birnie, Esquire
Co-Director
Maryland Safe Energy Coalition
P.O. Box 33111
Baltimore, MD 21218

Mr. Terrence J. Camilleri, Director,
NRM
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
1650 Calvert Cliffs Parkway
Lusby, MD 20657-4702

Mr. Larry Bell
NRC Technical Training Center
5700 Brainerd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37411-4017

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
P.O. Box 287
St. Leonard, MD 20685

Mr. Richard I. McLean
Administrator - Radioecology
Department of Natural Resources
580 Taylor Avenue
Tawes State Office Building, B3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONBALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-318NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE TO 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 No. DPR-69 issued to Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), for operation of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 2, located in Calvert County, Maryland.

The proposed amendment would allow a modification to the Unit 2 Service Water System (SWS) which constitutes an unreviewed safety question as described in 10 CFR 50.59. BGE proposes to add a nitrogen system to the SWS head tanks to increase the pressure in the SWS by approximately 15 psi. This proposed modification is in response to the water hammer concerns expressed in Generic Letter (GL) 96-06. The concern of the GL was that a loss-of-offsite power would disable the SWS pumps and stop flow in the SWS for a short time. If this situation should occur concurrent with a loss-of-coolant accident or main steam line break, the water in the containment air coolers (CACs) could boil as a result of the energy released to containment by the accident. The boiling would form steam voids in the CACs. The voids would collapse when SWS flow was re-established and the collapse, combined with the returning flow, would cause a water hammer, challenging the CAC(s) and/or the related SWS piping. As discussed in a letter from Mr. C. H. Cruse dated January 28, 1997, the CACs and associated equipment were shown to be operable under these conditions.

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After considering several options, it was determined that the best method for resolving this concern is to increase the pressure in the SWS above the fluid saturation point, thus providing a means to prevent boiling in the CACs until the SWS pumps automatically restart.

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:

1. Would not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Neither the [SWS] nor any [SWS] component is an initiator to an accident. The [SWS] provides cooling to safety-related equipment following an accident. It supports accident mitigation functions. Therefore, this proposed modification does not significantly increase the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

The [SWS] provides cooling water to the containment air coolers to mitigate the consequences of a loss-of-accident or main steam line break. A loss of nitrogen pressure to the [SWS] due to a single active failure has been evaluated. Since the nitrogen pressurization system is redundant, a single active failure in the nitrogen system would not prevent the [SWS] from performing

its safety function. Therefore this proposed modification does not involve a significant increase in the consequences of an accident.

Therefore, this proposed modification does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Would not create the possibility of a new or different type of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The [SWS] provides cooling water to the containment air coolers and emergency diesel generators. The purpose of the components which are affected by this proposed modification is to mitigate accidents. This proposed modification does not change equipment function, or significantly alter the method of operating equipment to be modified. The system will continue to operate in essentially the same manner as before the proposed modification was done.

Therefore, the proposed changes does not create the possibility of a new or different type of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Would not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The margin of safety in this case is the degree to which a single failure of the nitrogen system can affect the [SWS], since it connects to both [SWS] head tanks. To determine if there would be an adverse effect on plant safety resulting from this proposed modification, an evaluation of malfunctions of the nitrogen pressurization system was conducted. The only credible malfunctions are those related to failure of the pressure regulator. Even if a regulator were to fail open or closed, the [SWS] can perform its safety function. The proposed modification includes design features which ensure that pressure is maintained in each subsystem, even if this single failure occurs. Therefore, this proposed modification maintains the ability of the [SWS] to properly respond to an accident.

Therefore, this proposed modification does not significantly reduce 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.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By April 18, 1997, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Calvert County Library, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature

of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact or be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would

entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to be least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342

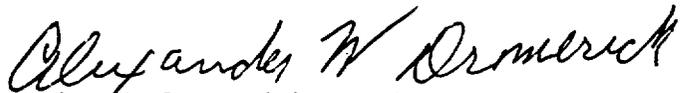
-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to S. Singh Bajwa: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Jay E. Silbert, Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW., Washington, DC, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 6, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the local public document room located at the Calvert County Library, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of March 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation