

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

January 27, 1999

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
 OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
 CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING,
 SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. MA2447)

Dear Mr. Byram:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject notice for your information. This notice relates to your application dated November 23, 1998, which would amend the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, Technical Specifications (TSs) to change the allowable values for both the core spray system and the low pressure coolant injection system reactor steam dome pressure-low functions.

This notice will be forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager
 Project Directorate I-1
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-388

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 27, 1999

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Senior Vice President-Generation
and Chief Nuclear Officer
PP&L, Inc.
2 North Ninth Street
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OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victor Nerses".

Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-388

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Robert G. Byram
PP&L, Inc.

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,
Units 1 & 2

cc:

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Berwick, PA 18603

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PP&L, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-388

**NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF 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. 22 issued to PP&L, Inc. (the licensee) for operation of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), Unit 2, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

This notice supersedes the previous notice published on September 9, 1998, (63 FR 48263) in its entirety. The proposed amendment would change the allowable values for both the core spray system and low pressure coolant injection system reactor steam dome pressure low functions.

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

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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. The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

This proposal does not involve an increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. The proposed amendment changes the "Reactor Steam Dome Pressure-Low" Allowable Values so to provide further assurance that the Core Spray and RHR systems will perform their LOCA design basis function.

The functional design basis of the Core Spray and LPCI is to inject water into the reactor vessel to cool the core during a LOCA by opening the core Spray and LPCI injection valves when reactor pressure drops below the reactor vessel low pressure permissive. The upper analytical limit for the permissive is the Core Spray and LPCI systems' maximum design pressure, and the lower analytical limit is the lowest pressure which allows injection to prevent exceeding the fuel cladding temperature limit. The new allowable values were selected to lie within the upper and lower limits to ensure there will be no change in the required logic or functions of the Core Spray and LPCI systems. These new values do not affect the LOCA or its "limiting fault" frequency of occurrence and do not introduce any new accidents or malfunctions of equipment important to safety. Since they do not affect the LOCA, they do not change the probability of occurrence of the LOCA. The new allowable values do not change the logic or function of the reactor vessel low pressure permissive. These new allowable values simply provide the basis for which the associated pressure instruments are to be set to ensure proper operation of Core Spray and LPCI within the design pressures as described above. Therefore, the change in allowable values does not increase the probability of occurrence or the consequences of an accident or malfunction of equipment important to safety.

Based upon the analysis presented above, PP&L concludes that the proposed action does not involve an increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

This proposal does not create the probability of a new or different type of accident from any accident previously evaluated. The new allowable values do not change any plant systems, structures, or components, nor do they change any existing or created any new Core Spray and LPCI logic or functions. The new allowable

values were selected to ensure the required operation of the Core Spray and LPCI systems within the design pressures described above.

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

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

The change does not involve a reduction in the margin of safety. Technical Specification Bases Section B3.3.5.1 9 (ECCS Instrumentation) identifies that the low reactor steam dome pressure signals are used as permissives for operation of the low pressure ECCS subsystems. The new allowable values were selected so to not impact the logic, redundancy, operability or surveillance requirements for these subsystems. The new allowable values maintain the margin requirements that the Core spray and LPCI system pressures such that they do not exceed their system maximum design pressures and that system pressures are high enough to ensure that the ECCS injection prevents the fuel peak cladding temperature from exceeding the limits of 10CFR50.46.

The margin of safety is unaffected by the proposed changes.

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 and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative 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 6D59, 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 March 3, 1999, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and 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 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 Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. 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 to 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 at 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: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. 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 Silberg, Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street NW., Washington, DC 20037, 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 November 23, 1998, 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 Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of January, 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation