

April 12, 1988

Docket No. 50-388

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Senior Vice President-Nuclear
Pennsylvania Power and Light Company
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

Dear Mr. Keiser:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
TAC NO. OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
67901 DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

RE: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

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 and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendment dated April 8, 1988 which would revise the Technical Specifications for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, reflecting the fact that the previously proposed modifications involving installation of new drywell fans 2V418 A&B will not be made. Therefore, the affected Technical Specification sections, which were amended in Amendment No. 36, must be returned to their previous status.

Although your application requested exigent approval of the requested change, the basis for exigency provided in your application is not adequate. Additionally, since the Unit 2 restart target date has slipped, we propose to process your request on an expeditious basis and still provide a 30 day public comment period. This approach has been discussed with your staff.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Butler (for)
Mohan C. Thadani, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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

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Senior Vice President-Nuclear
Pennsylvania Power and Light Company
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Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

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OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
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Sincerely,

(fw) Walter R. Burton
Mohan C. Thadani, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-?
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Pennsylvania Power & Light Company

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station
Units 1 & 2

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT COMPANYALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.DOCKET NO. 50-388NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 issued to Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, and Allegheny Electric Cooperative Inc., for operation of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

In accordance with the licensee's application dated April 8, 1988, the proposed amendment would delete reference to recirculation fans 2V418 A&B and fan associated breakers, and add fans 2V415 A&B and the associated breakers to the Technical Specifications. The change is necessary as a result of the licensee's decision not to proceed with its previously scheduled modifications to install new fans 2V418 A&B and to continue to rely upon existing fans 2V415 A&B.

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.

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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 amendments 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.

The licensee, in its April 8, 1988 application provided the following arguments in support of a determination that the application involves a no significant hazards consideration.

The following three questions are addressed below for each of the proposed changes:

- I. Does the proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?
- II. Does the proposed change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?
- III. Does the proposed change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

° Specification 3.6.6.2

- I. No. The proposed change will require a unit cooler subsystem of the same airflow capability as the currently required recirculation fans. Utilizing the existing 2V415A&B fans for this purpose ensures that the post-LOCA hydrogen mixing capability of the drywell air flow system is consistent with the assumptions of the existing safety analysis.
- II. No. The equivalent airflow capability of the existing fans as compared to the currently required fans precludes the potential for a new event; since the resulting configuration represents the original design, all pertinent safety analyses have already been performed.
- III. No. The airflow capability required to support the hydrogen mixing safety function is unchanged by this proposal. Therefore, safety margin remains the same.

° Table 3.8.4.1-1

- I. No. Primary containment penetration overcurrent protection is only required when loads exist which could jeopardize their associated penetrations. In this case, the ----- fans 2V418A&B, are not being installed. Therefore, no circuit breakers are required to protect the associated penetrations to ensure primary containment integrity, and consequently, no previous safety analysis is affected.
- II. No. The currently required circuit breakers are not needed to perform any safety function for the reasons described in I above. Therefore, not installing them cannot result in a new event requiring further safety analysis.
- III. No. Not installing a device that has no safety function to perform has no impact on safety margin.

The staff concurs with the above licensee evaluation and its conclusions.

Accordingly, the Commission proposes to determine that this change does not involve significant hazards considerations.

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. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules and Procedures Branch, Division of Rules and Records, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 4000, Maryland National Bank Building, 7735 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland from 8:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By May 16, 1988 , 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 petition for leave to intervene. Request for a hearing and petitions 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. 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 a 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 fifteen (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 fifteen (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, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. 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 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 involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

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 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 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.

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, D.C. 20555, Att: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (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) 325-6000 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Walter R. Butler, Director, Project Directorate I-2, Division of Reactor Projects I/II: 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 General Counsel, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Jay Silberg, Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

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 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 April 8, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Osterhout Free Library, Reference Department, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of April 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Walter R. Rutler, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II