January 25, 2001

Mr. Mike Reandeau
Director - Licensing
Clinton Power Station
P.O. Box 678
Mail Code V920
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT (TAC NO. MB0325)

Dear Mr. Reandeau:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 138 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1. The amendment is in response to your application dated October 6, 2000 (U-603332).

The amendment removes from the Technical Specification surveillance requirements the minimum operating time specified for the containment/drywell hydrogen mixing system.

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

Sincerely,
/RA/

Jon B. Hopkins, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-461

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 138 to NPF-62
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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

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Mike Reandeau

Clinton Power Station, Unit 1
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-461

CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 138
License No. NPF-62

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

   A. The application for amendment by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (the licensee), dated October 6, 2000 (U-603332), complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and 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 rules and 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;

   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 attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-62 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, as revised through Amendment No. 138 are hereby incorporated into this license. AmerGen Energy Company, LLC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days 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: January 25, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 138

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-62

DOCKET NO. 50-461

Replace the following page of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains a marginal line indicating the area of change.

Remove Pages	Insert Pages
3.6-42	3.6-42

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

SURVEILLANCE	FREQUENCY
SR 3.6.3.3.1 Operate each Containment/Drywell Hydrogen Mixing System.	92 days
SR 3.6.3.3.2 Verify each Containment/Drywell Hydrogen Mixing System flow rate is ≥ 800 scfm.	18 months

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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 138 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-62

AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-461

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 6, 2000 (U-603332), AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (the licensee) proposed an amendment to the Clinton Power Station (CPS) Technical Specifications. The proposed amendment removes from the Technical Specification (TS) surveillance requirements (SRs) the minimum operating time specified for the containment/drywell hydrogen mixing system.

2.0 EVALUATION

The containment/drywell hydrogen mixing system, which consists of two 100 percent subsystems, is operated following a design bases accident to minimize the potential for localized hydrogen burns. TS SR 3.6.3.3.1 requires that each subsystem be operated for greater than or equal to 15 minutes every 92 days. System performance data of flow and vibration are taken during the performance of this surveillance to show that the system is capable of performing its intended function. The licensee states that the collection of the data can be completed in less than five minutes. The licensee's proposed change is to eliminate the minimum operating time of greater than or equal to 15 minutes.

Performance of this surveillance test has identified a concern regarding a reduction of drywell pressure during the test. This challenges the licensee with regard to maintaining the required drywell-to-primary containment differential pressure. Specifically, the licensee states that during a recent performance of this surveillance test, the plant had to take action to restore drywell-to-containment differential pressure within one hour or else shutdown in accordance with TS.

TS SR 3.6.3.3.2 is performed every 18-months to obtain the containment/drywell hydrogen mixing system flow rate. This surveillance test is a more complete test of the system, and the licensee states that it typically takes 30 minutes or more to perform. This is because data is not

taken for this surveillance until the hydrogen mixing compressor bearing temperatures reach steady state conditions. The 18-month frequency of performance allows this surveillance test to be performed while the plant is shut down for refueling operations, so there is no issue regarding plant shutdown for a change to the drywell-to-containment differential pressure.

The TS Bases for SR 3.6.3.3.1 state that "Operating each Containment/Drywell Hydrogen Mixing System for $\geq$15 minutes ensures that each system is OPERABLE and that all associated controls are functioning properly. It also ensures that blockage, compressor failure, or excessive vibration can be detected for corrective action."

The licensee contacted the equipment vendor which stated that system operability should be based on the data gathered and not on a 15-minute run time. The licensee also stated "... that SR data, to date, has yielded consistently acceptable results and shown little change over time."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff considered the necessity of the 15-minute minimum run time for the performance data to indicate blockage, compressor failure, or excessive vibration. The staff finds that the 15-minute minimum run time is not necessary for the performance data to indicate system problems.

The staff has determined that the 15-minute minimum run time is not needed to assure that the necessary quality of systems and components is maintained, that facility operation will be within safety limits, or that the limiting conditions for operation will be met. Accordingly, the 15-minute minimum run time is not required under 10 CFR 50.36(c)(3) to be included in TS as a surveillance requirement.

The staff has reviewed the proposed change and based on the history of good system performance, the equipment vendor's comment, and the licensee's experience with the performance data finds that the change to eliminate the 15-minute minimum run time from TS SR 3.6.3.3.1, including from its Bases, is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Illinois State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment changes a surveillance requirement. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves 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 amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding (65 FR 71132). Accordingly, the amendment meets 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 amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The staff 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 amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: J. Hopkins

Date: January 25, 2001