

March 29, 2001

Mr. Mark E. Warner
Vice President - TMI Unit 1
AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

SUBJECT: TMI-1 - AMENDMENT RE: EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR
MAINTENANCE - TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST NO. 296
(TAC NO. MB0346)

Dear Mr. Warner:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 232 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-50 for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), in response to your application dated October 20, 2000, as supplemented March 14, 2001.

The amendment revises the frequency for maintenance inspections of the emergency diesel generators from annually to once every 2 years and states that the inspections shall be conducted in accordance with procedures developed in conjunction with applicable Fairbanks Morse Owners Group and manufacturer's recommendations.

A copy of the related safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-289

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 232 to DPR-50
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-289

THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 232
License No. DPR-50

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or NRC) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (the licensee), dated October 20, 2000, as supplemented March 14, 2001, 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. DPR-50 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 232 , are hereby incorporated in the license. The AmerGen Energy Company, LLC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

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

/RA/ P. Tam for

Marsha Gamberoni, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: March 29, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 232

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-50

DOCKET NO. 50-289

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by an amendment number and contains marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove
4-46

Insert
4-46

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 232 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-50

AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-289

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 20, 2000, as supplemented March 14, 2001, AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (the licensee), submitted a request for approval of changes to the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1), Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes revise the TS surveillance requirement for the emergency diesel generator (EDG) inspection frequency from annually to once every 2 years. The amendment also states that the inspections shall be conducted in accordance with procedures developed in conjunction with applicable Fairbanks Morse Owners Group (FMOG) and manufacturer's recommendations. The March 14, 2001, letter provided additional clarifying information, which did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination or expand the amendment beyond the scope of the original notice.

2.0 EVALUATION

TS 4.6.1 currently requires that each EDG shall be given an inspection at least annually in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. The licensee proposes to increase the inspection interval to once every 24 months with a grace period of up to 25 percent (up to 30 months) for EDG inspections required by TS 4.6.1. The licensee has stated that this proposed change is in accordance with the manufacturer's approval and the FMOG maintenance recommendations. As stated above, the licensee has also modified the current inspection requirements to identify that the inspections will be performed in accordance with procedures developed in conjunction with applicable FMOG and manufacturer's recommendations.

The frequency change for the EDG inspections is based on the implementation of a comprehensive program entitled "Recommended Maintenance for Opposed Piston Diesel Engines in Nuclear Standby Service," Revision 0, dated September 18, 1997. This program was developed by the FMOG to establish a consistent framework for the expected maintenance activities to be performed. The recommendations include common tasks for the entire nuclear opposed piston diesel generator population. The licensee has stated that the recommendations were reviewed in detail and endorsed by BF Goodrich/Fairbanks Morse Engine Division, the original equipment manufacturer. The activities performed and the intervals specified in the program are designed to constitute a complete package for maintaining diesel generator reliability.

The licensee compared current procedures and tasks with the FMOG recommendations as part of its engineering evaluation of the proposed changes. The licensee determined that the current practices and procedures for EDG inspection at TMI-1 are closely aligned with the FMOG recommendations, but it stated it will implement new tasks that were identified during its engineering evaluation in conjunction with the implementation of the proposed TS change.

The licensee identified 3 FMOG recommendations (18, 68, and 69) that it considered non-applicable because these recommendations were based on harsh water conditions that would cause accelerated fouling or corrosion. The TMI-1 EDGs use a closed-loop glycol jacket water-cooling system that is not subject to these harsh water conditions. Therefore, the licensee has stated it will continue to sample jacket water annually instead of quarterly (recommendation 18). The licensee has also stated that the replacement of heat exchanger zinc anodes (recommendations 68 and 69) is not applicable at TMI-1. The licensee has stated that future additional recommendations from either FMOG or the manufacturer will be reviewed for applicability and, where it is determined that the recommendations are applicable, the licensee will implement using standard evaluation and approval processes (site procedures and, where applicable, Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.59).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has evaluated the licensee's proposed changes to the EDG surveillance frequency and determined that the changes align the frequency of the EDG inspections to the current plant operating cycle of 24 months. The changes are consistent with the preventive maintenance program developed by FMOG and approved by the EDG manufacturer. Future FMOG and manufacturer recommendations for the TMI-1 EDGs will be reviewed in accordance with the licensee's site procedures and 10 CFR 50.59 and will be implemented as applicable. Based on the above, the NRC staff has determined that the increase of the EDG surveillance interval to 24 months with a 25 percent grace period is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The 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 (66 FR 2012). 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 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 amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Timothy G. Colburn

Date: March 29, 2001

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

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