

A. Alan Blind
Vice President

May 10, 2001

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Re: Indian Point Unit No. 2
Docket No. 50-247
NL 01-059

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop 0-P1-17
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: Indian Point 2 License Amendment Request for Elimination of Surveillance Requirement for Emergency Diesel Generator Inspection

In accordance with 10CFR50.4, transmitted herewith is an Application for Amendment to the Operating License. This application requests an amendment to the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), Indian Point Unit No. 2 (IP2) Technical Specifications (TS). The purpose of this License Amendment Request is to eliminate the IP2 Technical Specification Section 4.6.A.4 Surveillance Requirement for an annual Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) inspection. If this request is approved, EDG maintenance would be controlled by a licensee-controlled maintenance program incorporated by reference into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). The inspection frequency in the UFSAR would be "in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations" rather than "annual."

Attachment 1 to this letter provides the description and evaluation of the proposed change. The revised TS pages are provided in Attachment 2 (strikeout and shadow format).

The proposed TS changes do not require implementation by a specific date. However to minimize future EDG unavailability, Con Edison requests a timely NRC review and approval of the proposed change by October 31, 2001 with an implementation date within 60 days of approval.

The Station Nuclear Safety Committee (SNSC) and the Nuclear Facilities Safety Committee (NFSC) have reviewed the proposed change. Both committees concur that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration as defined by 10 CFR 50.92(c).

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91, a copy of this submittal and the associated attachments are being submitted to the designated New York State official.

New commitments made by Consolidated Edison contained in this letter are listed in Attachment 3 to this letter.

A001

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. John F. McCann, Manager, Nuclear Safety and Licensing at (914) 734-5074.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Alan Blind". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Alan Blind
Vice President - Nuclear Power

cc:

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY) Docket No. 50-247
OF NEW YORK, INC.)
(Indian Point Station, Unit No. 2))

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT
TO OPERATING LICENSE

Pursuant to Section 50.90 of the Regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison), as holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-26, hereby applies for amendment of the Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A of this license.

The specific proposed Technical Specification revision is set forth in Attachment 2. The associated assessment demonstrates that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration as defined in 10 CFR 50.92(c).

As required by 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), a copy of this Application and our evaluation concluding that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration has been provided to the appropriate New York State official designated to receive such amendments.

ERSILIA A. AMANNA
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01AM8038889
Qualified in Westchester County
Commission Expires March 20, 2002

BY: A. Alan Blind
Alan Blind
Vice President - Nuclear Power

Subscribed and sworn to
before me this 10 day
May, 2001.

Ersilia A. Amanna (Bovier)
Notary Public

ATTACHMENT 1 TO NL 01-059

**LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST
FOR EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR INSPECTION SURVEILLANCE
REQUIREMENT DELETION**

**CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC
INDIAN POINT UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-247**

LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Edison) is requesting a change to the Indian Point Unit No. 2 (IP2) Technical Specifications (TS) as described below.

The proposed change affects TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.6.A.4 that requires the Emergency Diesel Generators (EDGs) to be subjected to a thorough maintenance inspection annually. The requested change will result in deletion of the TS statement 4.6.A.4.

The following statement will be added to Chapter 8, "Electrical Systems," Section 8.5, "Tests and Inspections," of the UFSAR:

"The Emergency Diesel Generators will be inspected in accordance with a licensee controlled maintenance program. The maintenance program will require inspection in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation for this class of standby service. Changes to the maintenance program will be controlled under 10 CFR 50.59."

REASONS FOR THE CHANGE

The current prescriptive inspection frequency is not consistent with the 10CFR50.65 objective that maintenance to prevent failures of structures, systems, and components be appropriately balanced against the objective of minimizing unavailability of structures, systems, and components due to monitoring or preventive maintenance. Inspections at a frequency mandated by a licensee-controlled, performance-based maintenance program will meet the objectives of 10CFR50.65.

The proposed deletion of TS 4.6.A.4 facilitates the implementation of the Standard Technical Specifications at IP2. The proposed change is consistent with NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications for Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactors," in that there is no requirement in the Standard TS for an intrusive EDG maintenance inspection on any frequency. In the Standard TS, EDG operability is confirmed solely by testing.

EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGE

Three independent EDGs supply emergency power to the engineered safety features buses in the event of a loss of AC auxiliary power. Each EDG is started automatically on a safety injection

signal or upon the occurrence of an undervoltage condition on any vital 480V switchgear bus. The system is sufficiently redundant so that any two EDGs have adequate capacity to supply the engineered safety features for the design basis accident concurrent with a loss of offsite power. One EDG is adequate to provide power for a safe and orderly plant shutdown in the event of a loss-of-offsite electrical power.

Deletion of TS Surveillance Requirement 4.6.A.4 will have no effect on the design capability of the EDGs to meet the requirement to supply safe shutdown equipment power during specified plant events.

The deletion of the maintenance inspection from TS is based on an evaluation of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. 10CFR50.36(c)(3) "Surveillance Requirements" defines surveillance requirements as "requirements relating to test, calibration, or inspection to assure the necessary quality of systems and components is maintained, that facility operation will be within safety limits, and that the limiting conditions for operation will be met." The annual inspection is a maintenance activity that does not verify the operability of the EDG. The operability of the EDG continues to be verified by the test requirements of TS Surveillance Requirements 4.6.A.1, 2, and 3.

Adequate controls are established on the licensee-controlled maintenance program by its incorporation by reference into the UFSAR. Changes to the licensee-controlled maintenance program will require an evaluation in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59. Therefore, the effect on plant safety by the transfer of control of EDG inspection from the TS to a licensee-controlled EDG maintenance program is insignificant.

This request is similar to a change requested by the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 3, in a letter dated July 31, 2000 as supplemented on January 5, 2001. In its response on February 2, 2001, the NRC issued Amendment 194 to the Facility Operating License No. NPF-49 (Docket 50-423) for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No.3, allowing the relocation of EDG inspections from the Technical Specifications to licensee-controlled procedures. In its Safety Evaluation Report, the NRC concluded that the inspection was a maintenance activity not a surveillance requirement as defined by 10CFR50.36. And its relocation to a licensee-controlled document was acceptable since future changes would require an evaluation in accordance with 10CFR50.59.

The licensee-controlled maintenance program for the EDGs' inspection will be a performance-based program based on implementation of the manufacturer's recommendations contained in FM/ALCO MI-11272C, "Engine Maintenance Schedule Nuclear Standby Engines," dated November 2000. The maintenance schedule was developed by the ALCO Owners' Group and Fairbanks Morse (FM/ALCO) based on years of experience with ALCO Model 251 engines in nuclear standby service. This maintenance program is thus consistent with the IP2 10CFR50.65 Maintenance Rule Program.

The effectiveness of maintenance on the EDGs and its support systems is monitored pursuant to the

Maintenance Rule (10CFR50.65). The IP2 Maintenance Rule Program utilizes a formal process for identifying functional failures, adverse trends, and other techniques to identify the cause of system component failures or degradation. This program also implements a tracking system for unavailability and reliability. This program places a focus on improving system operability using various techniques that help predict imminent failures. The program also provides the plant with the ability to track planned maintenance periods and corrective maintenance to determine the overall health of the corresponding systems.

It is expected that, over the remaining life of the plant (and based on the current manufacturer's recommendations), this change will result in a significant reduction of the total number of EDG outages for the purpose of inspection. This will reduce the EDG unavailability for planned maintenance activities. This change is thus consistent with past studies on age-related failures of EDGs. A study on the subject ("Aging Mitigation and Improved Programs for Nuclear Service Diesel Generators," Pacific Northwest Laboratory, NUREG/CR 5057, December, 1989) found:

"...One important recommendation is that teardown of the diesel engines solely for the purpose of inspection should be avoided unless there is a definite indication that its operation is degraded or there is an impending component failure based on performance data trends."

The reduction in the number of EDG intrusive inspections will reduce the opportunity for introduction of equipment reliability problems due to human error, defective consumable items, and foreign material intrusion. While such reliability issues are infrequent, they have occurred in the industry. Thus, this change may result in a reduction in the unplanned unavailability of the EDGs. Based on the NUREG quoted above, as well as the manufacturer's recommendations, it is expected that there will be a significant increase in the overall availability of the EDGs.

NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION EVALUATION

Con Edison has determined that this proposed Technical Specification change does not involve a significant hazard consideration as defined by 10 CFR 50.92(c).

- 1. Operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not involve a significant increase in the probability of occurrence or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.**

There is no change to the design, function, or capability of the EDGs as a result of this change. Hence there is no change in the probability of occurrence of an accident previously evaluated.

The change does not affect the ability of the EDGs to mitigate the consequences of any accident previously evaluated; including the loss of coolant accident coupled with loss of offsite power.

To the contrary, this change is structured to enhance the availability and reliability of the EDGs by tailoring the actual EDG maintenance program to the EDGs' operational history and experience. In addition, the surveillance testing requirements of TS Surveillance Requirements 4.6.A.1, 2 & 3 have not changed and are adequate to verify the operability of the EDG system. And, the Maintenance Rule Program at IP2 has established specific performance criteria for the EDGs. These performance criteria, and requirements to ensure the criteria are met, are not affected by this change.

The deletion of the surveillance requirement and controlling EDG maintenance using a licensee-controlled maintenance program does not alter or prevent the ability of the EDGs to perform their intended functions.

Therefore, operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The EDG is not an accident initiator. The proposed change does not involve any physical design change or operational change. Thus a new failure mode is not introduced. In addition, the proposed change has been evaluated to not degrade the reliability of any existing system, structure, or component. Therefore, the proposed change does not create a new accident initiator or precursor, or create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

As a result of this change, there are no changes to IP2's design or to the IP2 TS safety limits, limiting safety system settings, or limiting conditions of operation. A single SR is replaced by a performance-based maintenance program.

The substitution of the performance-based maintenance program for the prescriptive SR is expected to increase the availability of the EDGs because the amount of time the EDGs are out-of-service for on-line maintenance will decrease. Reducing the number of plant operating hours that the unit is exposed to an out-of-service EDG improves rather than reduces the margin of safety. The substitution of the performance-based maintenance program for the prescriptive SR is expected to improve the reliability of the EDGs by minimizing the possibility of adverse results that may result from intrusive maintenance activities. The expected reliability improvement improves rather than reduces the margin of safety.

The transfer of control of EDG maintenance from the TS to a licensee-controlled EDG maintenance program is an administrative change. But the change is structured so that maintenance program changes must be evaluated using the 10CFR50.59 process. Use of the 10CFR50.59 process assures that future changes to the EDG maintenance program cannot significantly increase the likelihood of a malfunction of the EDGs. And use of the 10CFR50.59 process, instead of the license amendment process, allows Con Edison to optimize EDG maintenance in a timely manner to meet the intent of 10CFR50.65.

The proposed changes do not adversely affect the EDGs' ability to function when required to mitigate any accident or licensing basis event. Therefore, operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above evaluation, Con Edison has concluded that the proposed change will not result in a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously analyzed; will not result in a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously analyzed, and does not result in a reduction in any margin of safety. Therefore, operation of IP2 in accordance with the proposed amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration. In addition, the proposed change to the TS has been reviewed by both the Station Nuclear Safety Committee (SNSC) and the Nuclear Facilities Safety Committee (NFSC). Both committees concur that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

An environmental assessment is not required for the above proposed change because the requested change to the Indian Point Generating Station Unit 2 Technical Specifications conforms to the criteria for "actions eligible for categorical exclusion," as specified in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). The requested change will have no impact on the environment. The proposed change does not involve a significant hazards consideration as discussed in the preceding section. The proposed change does not involve a significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite. In addition, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

ATTACHMENT 2 TO NL 01-059

**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION PAGES IN
STRIKEOUT/SHADOW FORMAT**

Deleted text is shown as ~~strikeout~~.

Added text is shown as shaded.

4. ~~Each diesel generator shall be given a thorough inspection at least annually following the manufacturer's recommendations for this class of stand-by service.~~

The above tests will be considered satisfactory if the required minimum safeguards equipment operated as designed.

B. DIESEL FUEL TANKS

A minimum oil storage of 48,000 gallons will be maintained for the station at all times.

C. STATION BATTERIES (NOS. 21, 22, 23, & 24)

1. Every month, the voltage of each cell, the specific gravity and temperature of a pilot cell in each battery and each battery voltage shall be measured and recorded.
2. Every 3 months, each battery shall be subjected to a 24-hour equalizing charge, and the specific gravity of each cell, the temperature reading of every fifth cell, the height of electrolyte, and the amount of water added shall be measured and recorded.
3. Each time data is recorded, new data shall be compared with old to detect signs of abuse or deterioration.
4. At least once every Refueling Interval (R##) each battery shall be subjected to a load test and a visual inspection of the plates.

D. GAS TURBINE GENERATORS

1. At monthly intervals, at least one gas turbine generator shall be started and synchronized to the power distribution system for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes with a minimum electrical output of 750 kw.

ATTACHMENT 3 TO NL 01-059

COMMITMENTS

**CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC
INDIAN POINT UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-247**

Commitments

No.	Commitment	Schedule
1	<p>The following statement will be added to Chapter 8, ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS, Section 8.5, TESTS AND INSPECTIONS, of the UFSAR:</p> <p>“The Emergency Diesel Generators will be inspected in accordance with a licensee controlled maintenance program. The maintenance program will require inspection in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendation for this class of standby service. Changes to the maintenance program will be controlled under 10 CFR 50.59.”</p>	When the TS Amendment is implemented