



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

January 31, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-277
and 50-278

Mr. George J. Beck
Director-Licensing, MC 5-2A-5
Philadelphia Electric Company
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control Desk
P.O. Box No. 195
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-0195

Dear Mr. Beck:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION
DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING FOR PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC
POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. 79325 AND 79326)

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 December 17, 1990, as supplemented on January 22, 1991, which would revise the Peach Bottom Unit 2 and 3 Technical Specifications to revise Minimum Critical Power Ratio Safety Limits and to include miscellaneous administrative changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Y. Suh".

Gene Y. Suh, 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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Mr. George J. Beck
Philadelphia Electric Company

Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station,
Units 2 and 3

cc:

Troy B. Conner, Jr., Esq.
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Philadelphia Electric Company
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Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
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Delta, Pennsylvania 17314

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
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Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. Roland Fletcher
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201 West Preston Street
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Single Point of Contact
P. O. Box 11880
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1880

Mr. Thomas M. Gerusky, Director
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Resources
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Board of Supervisors
Peach Bottom Township
R. D. #1
Delta, Pennsylvania 17314

Public Service Commission of Maryland
Engineering Division
ATTN: Chief Engineer
231 E. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-3486

Mr. Richard McLean
Power Plant and Environmental
Review Division
Department of Natural Resources
B-3, Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANYPUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANYDELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-277 AND 50-278NOTICE 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 amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-44 and DPR-56, issued to Philadelphia Electric Company, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Delmarva Power and Light Company, and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) for operation of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3, located in York County, Pennsylvania.

The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications (TS) of Appendix A of the licenses to revise Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) Safety Limits since the cores will be reloaded with a new fuel type, GE8X8NB, for Cycle 9 operation. The proposed amendments also involve miscellaneous administrative changes. This Notice supersedes in its entirety the Notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on January 23, 1991 (56 FR 2554).

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, 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 request for amendments 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 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 analyses of the issue of no significant hazards consideration. With regard to the revisions to MCPR Safety Limits, the licensee's analysis was as follows:

- i) The proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. Because the MCPR Safety Limits are operational thresholds analytically selected using proven methods, they cannot, themselves, initiate an accident. The probability of occurrence of transients is determined by the frequency of operator errors and equipment failures, not by the adequacy of the MCPR Safety Limits selected. Because the proposed MCPR Safety Limits have been selected such that no fuel damage is calculated to occur during the most severe moderate frequency transient events, they will ensure that the consequences of these events are not increased.

The response of the plant to transients will be within the bounds of the discussion in Chapter 14 and Appendix G of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report since the proposed MCPR Safety Limits will accomplish the same objectives as the previous limits.

- ii) The proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated because the proposed MCPR Safety Limits have been selected such that the design basis is satisfied. The MCPR Safety Limits are operational thresholds analytically selected using proven methods; therefore, they cannot, themselves, initiate an accident. An improperly selected limit could result in fuel damage, which is a consequence of previously evaluated accidents. Thus, no new or different type of accident could be created by revising the limits.
- iii) The proposed changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety because the proposed MCPR Safety Limits have been selected such that the design basis is satisfied and such that the

conservatisms described in the Bases for the Fuel Cladding Integrity Safety Limit TS are maintained. Thus, margins of safety with the proposed MCPR Safety Limits are the same as with the previous limits.

With regard to the miscellaneous administrative changes, the licensee's analysis was as follows:

- i) The proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because they do not affect operation, equipment, or any safety-related activity. Thus, these administrative changes cannot affect the probability or consequences of any accident.
- ii) The proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated because these changes are purely administrative and do not affect the plant. Therefore, these changes cannot create the possibility of any accident.
- iii) The proposed changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety because the changes do not affect any safety-related activity or equipment. These changes are purely administrative in nature and increase the probability that the Technical Specifications are correctly interpreted by adding appropriate references and correcting errors. Thus, these changes cannot reduce any margin of safety.

The NRC Staff has reviewed the licensee's analyses 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.

Therefore, based on the above considerations, the Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comment 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 Regulatory Publications Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, 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 P-223, Phillips Building, 7920 Norfolk Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By March 8, 1991 , 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. 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, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room located at Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (REGIONAL DEPOSITORY) Education Building, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105. 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 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. 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 request for amendment 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 a 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, 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 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, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., 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 Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Conner and Wetterhahn, 1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, 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 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 December 17, 1990, as amended and supplemented on January 22, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Local Public Document Room located at Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (REGIONAL DEPOSITORY) Education Building, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Walter R. Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

January 31, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-277
and 50-278

Mr. George J. Beck
Director-Licensing, MC 5-2A-5
Philadelphia Electric Company
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Dear Mr. Beck:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING FOR PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. 79325 AND 79326)

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Sincerely,

/s/

Gene Y. Suh, 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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