

May 12, 1999

Mr. Garrett D. Edwards
Director-Licensing, MC 62A-1
PECO Energy Company
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control Desk
P.O. Box No. 195
Wayne, PA 19087-0195

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF REQUEST TO INSTALL REPLACEMENT
SUCTION STRAINERS FOR THE EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEMS
PUMPS FOR LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. M99857)

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated October 6, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated August 28, 1998. The proposed amendment would document the NRC's approval of the implementation of a plant modification to support the installation of replacement suction strainers for the emergency core cooling systems pumps at the Limerick Generating Station, Unit 2.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Bartholomew C. Buckley, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-353

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/enci: See next page

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bartholomew C. Buckley".

Bartholomew C. Buckley, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-353

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Garrett D. Edwards
PECO Energy Company

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

J. W. Durham, Sr., Esquire
Sr. V.P. & General Counsel
PECO Energy Company
2301 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Chief-Division of Nuclear Safety
PA Dept. of Environmental Resources
P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Manager-Limerick Licensing, 62A-1
PECO Energy Company
965 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA 19087-5691

Director-Site Engineering
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Mr. James D. von Suskil, Vice President
Limerick Generating Station
Post Office Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Manager-Experience Assessment
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Plant Manager
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Library
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Manager-Operations
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box 596
Pottstown, PA 19464

Dr. Judith Johnsrud
National Energy Committee
Sierra Club
433 Orlando Avenue
State College, PA 16803

Director-Site Support Services
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box A
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Chairman
Board of Supervisors
of Limerick Township
646 West Ridge Pike
Linfield, PA 19468

Roy Denmark
Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Review Coordinator
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PECO ENERGY COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-353

LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-85, issued to PECO Energy Company (the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit 2, located in Montgomery and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would approve the implementation of a plant modification to support the installation of replacement suction strainers for the emergency core cooling systems (residual heat removal and core spray) pumps at LGS, Unit 2.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated October 6, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated August 28, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

On May 6, 1996, the NRC issued NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors," that requested addressees to implement appropriate procedural measures and plant modifications to minimize the potential for clogging of emergency core cooling system (ECCS) suppression pool suction strainers by debris generated during a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) and requested that addressees report to the NRC whether they intend to implement the requested actions.

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In response to the above cited bulletin, the licensee proposed a plant modification to install replacement suction strainers in the ECCS pumps. The replacement strainer surface areas, which are substantially larger than the currently installed strainers, are required to reduce potential strainer clogging due to debris in the suppression pool following a postulated loss-of-coolant accident.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the installation of the replacement strainers in the ECCS pumps reduces potential strainer clogging due to debris in the suppression pool following a loss-of-coolant accident and does not change the manner in which the plant is being operated or the environmental impacts of operation. The proposed action involves features entirely within the protected area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites and only involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Limerick Generating Station, Unit 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on October 29, 1998, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. David Ney of the Bureau of Radiation Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT


Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated October 6, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated August 28, 1998, which are available for

public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Pottstown Public Library, 500 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of May 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation