

June 1, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
(TAC NO. MB0326)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 140 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-603329).

The amendment relocates Technical Specification Figure 3.6.4.1-1, "Secondary Containment Drawdown Time for 1500 cfm Boundary Leakage" to plant procedures.

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. 140 to NPF-62
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-461

CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 140
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-603329), 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. 140 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

/RA/

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: June 1, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 140

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-62

DOCKET NO. 50-461

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove Pages

3.6-45

3.6-46

Insert Pages

3.6-45

3.6-46

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 140 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-603329), AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (the licensee) proposed an amendment to the Clinton Power Station (CPS) Technical Specifications. The proposed amendment removes from the Technical Specifications (TSs) Figure 3.6.4.1-1, "Secondary Containment Drawdown Time for 1500 cfm Boundary Leakage." The figure allows for adjustment of drawdown test results to correlate the results to accident conditions. The details associated with the figure will be relocated to plant-controlled documents.

2.0 EVALUATION

The standby gas treatment system (SGT) is designed to achieve and maintain 0.25 inches of water gauge negative pressure in the secondary containment with respect to the outdoors following design-basis accidents, principally the loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) and the fuel handling accident. Therefore, test conditions must be considered relative to post-accident conditions when establishing test acceptance criteria for verifying SGT performance.

During initial licensing of CPS, the applicant performed an analysis that resulted in a drawdown time estimate of 188 seconds following a LOCA, and proposed 168 seconds as the TS value to achieve drawdown. However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff had a concern that 168 seconds would be non-conservative when obtained during normal plant conditions. To resolve the concern, the licensee committed to analyze the drawdown time under normal test conditions and provide an appropriate value for the test time limit at least 60 days before the second fuel cycle began. The staff agreed to deferment of a final value, because the staff judged that the preoperational test results of 35 seconds appeared reasonable for a non-accident inleakage drawdown time.

Subsequently, in a letter dated December 21, 1988, the licensee provided the analysis results and proposed a graph be included in TS to address drawdown time. The proposed TS Figure and associated TS Bases were approved by the NRC by license Amendment No. 21 dated April 10, 1989.

The current TS Bases state, in part, the following:

These time limits account for differences between testing conditions and anticipated LOCA conditions. The acceptance criteria specified in Figure 3.6.4.1-1 for the drawdown test is based on a computer model, verified by actual performance of drawdown tests, in which the drawdown time determined for accident conditions is adjusted to account for performance of the test during normal plant conditions (acfm). The acceptance criteria indicated per Figure 3.6.4.1-1 is based on conditions corresponding to power operation (with the turbine building ventilation system in operation) and wind speeds less than or equal to 10 mph. The acceptance criteria for plant conditions other than those assumed will be adjusted as necessary to reflect the conditions which exist during performance of the surveillance test (e.g., via the use of separate figures for different plant operating conditions, such as for those corresponding to plant shutdown with and without the turbine building ventilation system in operation). This ensures that ≥ 0.25 of vacuum water gauge will be established in ≤ 188 seconds under LOCA conditions. This cannot be accomplished if the secondary containment boundary is not intact.

Current TS surveillance requirement 3.6.4.1.4 states, "Verify each standby gas treatment (SGT) subsystem will draw down the secondary containment to ≥ 0.25 inch of vacuum water gauge within the time required by Figure 3.6.4.1-1." The surveillance requirement statement of comparing test results to Figure 3.6.4.1-1 conflicts with the TS Bases statement that separate figures for different plant operating conditions will be used. As a result instead of incorporating multiple figures in the TS, the licensee proposes changing the TS from the current "...within the time required by Figure 3.6.4.1-1" to "...within the required time" and relocating the existing TS figure to a plant procedure along with other curves necessary to correlate test results for different plant conditions.

In the safety evaluation for license Amendment No. 21, the NRC staff stated "The acceptance criteria for plant conditions other than those assumed will be adjusted as necessary to reflect the conditions which exist during the performance of the surveillance test..." and "The procedure for adjustment of the criteria based on plant and environmental conditions was reviewed by the staff and found to be reasonable."

TS 3.6.4.1 requires the secondary containment to be operable, and the surveillance requirements ensure that the operability is periodically checked. The plant procedure that is used to adjust test acceptance criteria is controlled by the licensee in accordance with its Quality Assurance Program and any changes to the acceptance criteria or the method of calculation are subject to 10 CFR 50.59. The relocated figure 3.6.4.1-1 is not required to be in TS to provide adequate protection of the public health and safety. Therefore, relocating the figure to a plant controlled document is acceptable to the NRC staff.

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposal to relocate TS Figure 3.6.4.1-1, and finds that based on the above, the proposed change including associated TS Bases changes 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 requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 or 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: June 1, 2001