

May 31, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS RELATED TO REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS CHANGE TO EXTEND THE SURVEILLANCE TEST INTERVAL FOR SOLID STATE PROTECTION SYSTEM SLAVE RELAY FROM 92 DAYS TO 18 MONTHS (TAC NOS. MB0491, MB0492, MB0493, AND MB0494)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 121 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-37 and Amendment No. 121 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-66 for the Byron Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, and Amendment No. 115 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-72 and Amendment No. 115 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-77 for the Braidwood Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments are in response to your application dated November 7, 2000, and supplemental submittal dated March 23, 2001.

Subsequent to the date of the original amendment request, ComEd was merged into Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon or licensee). By letter dated February 7, 2001, Exelon informed the NRC that it assumed responsibility for all pending NRC actions that were requested by ComEd.

The amendments would revise the technical specifications to extend the TS surveillance test interval (STI) from a 92-day STI to an 18-month STI, for the solid state protection system (SSPS) slave relay types that meet the acceptance criteria for the reliability assessments performed in accordance with the methodology described in the NRC approved Westinghouse Electric Corporation Topical Reports.

Mr. O. Kingsley

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A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mahesh Chawla, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455,
STN 50-456 and STN 50-457

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 121 to NPF-37
2. Amendment No. 121 to NPF-66
3. Amendment No. 115 to NPF-72
4. Amendment No. 115 to NPF-77
5. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

O. Kingsley
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Byron/Braidwood Stations

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Mr. O. Kingsley

-2-

A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mahesh Chawla, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455,
STN 50-456 and STN 50-457

- Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 121 to NPF-37
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cc w/encls: See next page

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EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. STN 50-454

BYRON STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 121
License No. NPF-37

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) dated November 7, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated March 23, 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. NPF-37 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A as revised through Amendment No. 121 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

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: May 31, 2001

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. STN 50-455

BYRON STATION, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No.121
License No. NPF-66

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) dated November 7, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated March 23, 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. NPF-66 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A (NUREG-1113), as revised through Amendment No. 121 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which were attached to License No. NPF-37, dated February 14, 1985, are hereby incorporated into this license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

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: May 31, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 121 AND 121

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-37 AND NPF-66

DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454 AND STN 50-455

Revise the Appendix A Technical Specifications by removing the pages identified below and inserting the attached pages. The revised pages are identified by the captioned amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the area of change.

Remove Pages

3.3.2-7
3.3.2-9
3.3.2-10
3.3.2-11
3.3.2-12
3.3.2-13
3.3.6-3

Insert Pages

3.3.2-7
3.3.2-9
3.3.2-10
3.3.2-11
3.3.2-12
3.3.2-13
3.3.6-3

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. STN 50-456

BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 115
License No. NPF-72

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) dated November 7, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated March 23, 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. NPF-72 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A as revised through Amendment No. 115 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

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: May 31, 2001

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. STN 50-457

BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 115
License No. NPF-77

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) dated November 7, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated March 23, 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. NPF-77 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A as revised through Amendment No. 115 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which were attached to License No. NPF-72, dated July 2, 1987, are hereby incorporated into this license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

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: May 31, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 115 AND 115

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-72 AND NPF-77

DOCKET NOS. STN 50-456 AND STN 50-457

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

Remove Pages

3.3.2-7
3.3.2-9
3.3.2-10
3.3.2-11
3.3.2-12
3.3.2-13
3.3.6-3

Insert Pages

3.3.2-7
3.3.2-9
3.3.2-10
3.3.2-11
3.3.2-12
3.3.2-13
3.3.6-3

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 121 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-37,
AMENDMENT NO. 121 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-66,
AMENDMENT NO. 115 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-72,
AND AMENDMENT NO. 115 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-77
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC
BYRON STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456 AND STN 50-457

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 7, 2000, the Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd), submitted proposed technical specification (TS) changes for the Byron and Braidwood Nuclear Plants, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendments would allow a test interval extension for the solid-state protection system (SSPS) slave relays. Currently, at Byron and Braidwood, and other Westinghouse plants, slave relays for the engineered safety features actuation system (ESFAS) and containment ventilation isolation instrumentation are tested quarterly with the exception of some relays which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has previously approved to be tested every 18 months.

Subsequent to the date of the original amendment request, ComEd was merged into Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon or licensee). By letter dated February 7, 2001, Exelon informed the NRC that it assumed responsibility for all pending NRC actions that were requested by ComEd.

During review of the original submittal dated November 7, 2000, the staff requested additional information which was transmitted to the licensee on January 23, 2001, via electronic mail (ADAMS Accession No. ML010240303). In response to this e-mail, the licensee drafted additional information which they sent on February 5, 2001, via e-mail (ADAMS Accession No. ML010890444). The follow-up discussion between the NRC staff and the licensee occurred on February 14, 2001, to discuss the additional information request. This discussion was followed by a formal request for the additional information sent by NRC on March 8, 2001. This resulted in the supplemental submittal by the licensee dated March 23, 2001, to provide further clarification to the staff questions.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The proposed changes to the TS would extend the test interval for all Westinghouse Type AR and Potter & Brumfield Type MDR slave relays in the Westinghouse Plant ESFAS and containment ventilation isolation instrumentation to 18 months. In order to justify these changes, the licensee referenced generic Westinghouse Topical Report WCAP-13877, Rev. 2, "Reliability Assessment of Westinghouse Type AR Relays Used As SSPS Slave Relays," Westinghouse Topical Report WCAP-13878, Rev. 2, "Reliability Assessment of Potter & Brumfield MDR Series Relays," and Westinghouse Topical Report WCAP-13900 Rev. 0, "Extension of Slave Relay Surveillance Test Intervals." By letter dated July 12, 2000, the staff accepted Revision 2 of WCAP-13877 and WCAP-13878. By letters dated May 31, 1996, and October 26, 1998, the staff had accepted Revision 1 of the WCAP-13878 and WCAP-13877, respectively. These letters also accepted the Revision 0 of WCAP-13900. Based on the staff's safety evaluation reports (SERs) to the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG), finding the above topical reports acceptable, each licensee is required to address the following plant-specific items:

1. Confirm the applicability of the WCAP-13877 and WCAP-13878 analyses to its plant.
2. Ensure that the contact loading analysis for the Westinghouse Type AR and Potter & Brumfield Type MDR relays has been performed to determine the acceptability of these relays.
3. Determine the qualified life for the Type AR relays based on plant-specific environmental conditions.
4. Ensure that the procurement program for the Potter & Brumfield MDR relays is adequate for detecting the type of failures that are discussed in the Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data Special Study Report (AEOD/S93-06), "Potter & Brumfield Model MDR Rotary Relay Failures," dated December 1993; Information Notice IN 90-57, "Substandard, Refurbished Potter & Brumfield Relays Misrepresented as New," dated September 5, 1990, and the associated Supplement 1, dated November 27, 1991; and a 10 CFR Part 21 report from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, dated July 21, 1995.
5. Ensure that all pre-1992 Potter & Brumfield MDR Series relays, that are used either normally energized or in a 20% duty cycle, have been removed from ESFAS applications.
6. Establish a program to evaluate the adequacy of the proposed test interval if two or more slave relays fail in a 12-month period.

3.0 EVALUATION

In submittals dated November 7, 2000, and March 23, 2001, the licensee addressed each of the above plant-specific items. The staff evaluation of these plant-specific items is discussed below.

1. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee confirmed the applicability of the Topical Reports to Byron and Braidwood Stations. The licensee stated that the methodology and assumptions utilized in these topical reports are directly applicable to the Byron and Braidwood Stations. However, the licensee did not state that the relay types used at Byron and Braidwood Stations were the same ones analyzed in the topical reports. The staff was particularly concerned with the AR relays with the DC coils since they were not analyzed in the Topical Reports. In its letter of March 23, 2001, the licensee has confirmed that only relays with AC coils are used at Byron and Braidwood Stations and that it did not propose any deviations from the referenced Topical Reports.

In addition, the licensee requested NRC approval to allow replacing existing slave relays with relays from a different manufacturer or with a different model of relay from the same manufacturer. The new relay will meet the acceptance criteria for the reliability assessments performed in accordance with the staff-approved WCAPs. In its request for additional information, the staff asked the licensee to either provide detailed acceptance criteria or amend the request to delete the paragraph on future relay replacement because the WCAPs do not have any defined acceptance criteria and were based on a methodology. In their letter of March 23, 2001, the licensee agreed to withdraw the proposed extension of the surveillance test interval for future replacement SSPS relays from the TS change request and from the TS bases. On this basis, the staff considers that the licensee submittal has adequately addressed the applicability of the topical report to Byron and Braidwood Stations.

2. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee provided the results of the contact loading analysis. The analysis concluded that the 11 sets of slave relay contacts per ESFAS train out of 165 possible sets required further analysis. The licensee has completed this analysis and determined that one set of relay contacts used for the hydrogen monitoring system at Byron Station needs to be replaced. For Braidwood Station, a modification has already been carried out to make the relay acceptable. Nine sets of relay contacts were determined to be acceptable for the AR relay type but were not acceptable for Potter & Brumfield MDR relays. At Byron and Braidwood Stations, only AR relays are used for these applications, and the licensee has assured the staff that its procurement program will ensure that Potter & Brumfield relays are not used in these applications unless subsequently verified to be acceptable. One other set of relay contacts was determined to be acceptable after further review. On this basis, the staff finds that the licensee has adequately addressed the staff's concerns regarding contact loading of slave relays.

3. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee stated that none of the Type AR relays used in the SSPS slave relay application are normally energized. The results of the qualified life analysis determined that the qualified life of the Type AR relays used at Byron and Braidwood Stations exceeds 40 years. On this basis, the staff has determined that the licensee has adequately addressed this item.
4. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee stated that the procurement programs at Byron and Braidwood Stations are adequate for detecting potential failures identified in the documents listed above. The procurement programs have detailed and specific instructions attached to the ordering documentation for the Potter & Brumfield MDR series relays such that any repaired or reworked slave relay will require prior approval. Also, no refurbished slave relays are currently in use at the Byron and Braidwood Stations. On this basis, the staff finds that the licensee has adequately addressed the staff's concerns regarding refurbished relays.
5. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee stated that none of the slave relays in SSPS applications are either normally energized or 20% energized (20% duty cycle). Therefore, this item is not applicable to the Byron and Braidwood Stations.
6. In the letter dated November 7, 2000, the licensee stated that the maintenance rule program implements the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," and provides instructions for initiation, analysis, retrieval, trending, and periodic reporting of data relative to performance indicators for plant systems and components. The program includes guidance for trending and reporting of repetitive preventable failures of functions. The functions performed by the slave relays are in the scope of the maintenance rule program. The licensee has also stated that the surveillance procedures used for the slave relay testing will be revised to include a requirement to evaluate the slave relay failure to determine if the same relay has failed within the last 12 months. If a second failure is identified within a 12-month period, the adequacy of the surveillance test interval will be evaluated and will be reduced if necessary. The staff finds that the licensee has satisfactorily addressed Item 6.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve 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 amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 11053). Accordingly, the amendments meet 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 amendments.

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 amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Hukam Garg

Date: May 31, 2001