

July 27, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO
PROPOSED EXEMPTION (TAC NOS. MB2104 AND MB2105)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for an exemption for the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit Nos. 1 and 2, dated May 30, 2001. The proposed exemption would allow updates to the combined Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for LGS, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, to be submitted within 6 months following completion of each LGS Unit 1 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months from the previous submittal. The requirement in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.71(e)(4) requires an update within 6 months after each refueling outage, provided the interval between updates does not exceed 24 months. Since LGS, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, share a combined UFSAR, that would require updates approximately annually to the UFSAR. The proposed exemption would reduce the update frequency to approximately every 2 years.

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. Edward Cullen
Vice President & General Counsel
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
300 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Manager-Limerick Licensing
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control
P.O. Box 160
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. William Levis, Site Vice President
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box 2300
Sanatoga, PA 19464

Mr. R. Braun
Plant Manager
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box 2300
Sanatoga, PA 19464

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Jeffrey A. Benjamin
Licensing - Vice President
Exelon Corporation
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. James A. Hutton
Director-Licensing
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control
P. O. Box 160
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Correspondence Control Desk
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 1-N-1
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. John Skolds
Chief Operating Officer
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. William Bohlke
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. John Cotton
Senior Vice President, Operations Support
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
1400 Opus Place, Suite 900
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Mr. Joseph Hagan
Senior Vice President
Mid-Atlantic Regional Operating Group
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-N
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Ms. K. Gallogly
Regulatory Assurance Manager
Limerick Generating Station
P.O. Box 2300
Sanatoga, PA 19464

July 27, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E
Kennett Square, PA 19348

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DATE	6/27/01	6/27/01	6/27/01	7/10/01	7/27/01	

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC
DOCKET NOS. 50-352 AND 50-353
LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 71(e)(4) to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-39 and NPF-85, issued to Exelon Generation Company, LLC, (the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from some requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). The proposed exemption would allow updates to the combined UFSAR for LGS, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, to be submitted within 6 months following completion of each LGS Unit 1 refueling outage, not to exceed 24 months from the previous submittal.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated May 30, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), requires licensees to submit updates to their UFSAR annually or within 6 months after each refueling outage provided that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since Units 1 and 2 share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document annually or within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. The last change to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER (57 FR 39358) on August 31, 1992, and became effective on October 1, 1992. The underlying purpose of the rule change was to relieve licensees of the burden of filing annual UFSAR revisions while assuring that such revisions are made at least every 24 months. However, as written, the burden reduction can only be realized by single-unit facilities, or multiple-unit facilities that maintain separate UFSARs for each unit. In the Summary and Analysis of Public Comments accompanying the 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) rule change published in the FEDERAL REGISTER (57 FR 39355, 1992), the NRC acknowledged that the final rule did not provide burden reduction to multiple-unit facilities sharing a common UFSAR. The NRC stated: "With respect to the concern about multiple facilities sharing a common FSAR, licensees will have maximum flexibility for scheduling updates on a case-by-case basis." Granting this exemption would provide burden reduction to LGS while still assuring that revisions to the UFSAR are made at least every 24 months.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that it involves administrative activities unrelated to plant operation.

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 off site, and there is no increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant 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 LGS.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 18, 2001, the NRC staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, David Nye, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Nuclear Safety Division, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC 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 May 30, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS may contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of July, 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation