

July 16, 2001

LICENSEE: AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen)

FACILITY: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Oyster Creek)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 21, 2001, MEETING WITH AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC ON OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

On March 21, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a meeting open to the public with AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), the licensee for Oyster Creek. The meeting, was held at the NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the quarterly meeting was to discuss the status of issues raised at the December 20, 2000, meeting and discuss the status of the current and future licensing issues. Each of the issues on the agenda is discussed in more detail below. Enclosure 1 is a copy of the agenda used for the meeting. Enclosure 2 is a list of the meeting participants. Enclosure 3 is a copy of the NRC's handouts, and Enclosure 4 is a copy of the licensee's handout used at the meeting to discuss future licensing actions.

Below is a summary of the discussion for the key areas on the agenda.

Progress on Issues Since the December 20, 2000

Timely Communications: The NRC staff stated that there was not a need for urgent action or emerging issues since December 20, 2000, but AmerGen did discuss the potential of an urgent action involving a leaking upright pipe. The NRC stated that the need for more routine communication still exists.

Quality of Submittals: The NRC stated that only three proposed amendments have been received since December 20, 2000. The quality of the submittals seems to be improving.

Quality of Technical Specification Pages: The NRC stated that a need exists for more accurate Technical Specification (TS) pages accompanying the proposed amendment. For example, before issuing Amendment No. 219, the NRC called several times to ensure that the TS pages were correct and up-to-date. After issuing the amendment, the NRC noticed that the TS were indeed not accurate. It asked the licensee to submit corrected pages which AmerGen did by submittal dated April 4, 2001. At this meeting, the licensee stated that it is taking measures to ensure the quality and accuracy of the electronic databases involving TS pages at AmerGen. AmerGen plans to submit hand-marked up pages with a proposed amendment to ensure accurate and up-to-date submittal of TS pages.

Timely Receipt of Submittals: The NRC had been receiving documents up to 6 weeks after being dated. Since December 20, 2000, the receipt of submittals has improved. With AmerGen sending an advanced copy by expedited mail to the Project Manager, timely receipt of submittals has improved sufficiently, so that this issue is being dropped and no longer monitored by the NRC.

Timely Planning of Future Submittals: This issue was discussed in the December 20, 2000, meeting. One example given was that for the fall 2000 outage, the 11 licensing actions that were needed had to be completed by the NRC in 2-3 months. This area continues to need improvement. The NRC's goal is to complete licensing actions within 12 months for routine licensing actions. As shown in Enclosure 3, the licensee's handout for future licensing actions notes 22 licensing actions with the expectation that the NRC will review and approve these actions in 4-6 months. The NRC stated that AmerGen needs to plan on giving the staff 12 months to review routine items. Anything less should be reserved for extraordinary circumstances of unforeseeable emergencies. The unnecessary accelerated schedule plays havoc with the NRC's resources. This area will continue to be monitored by the NRC.

The licensee identified several Technical Specifications Change Request and Licensing Action Reviews which had not yet been submitted. It also reviewed its submittal schedules and the date the submittal reviews would need to be completed. On many of these, the licensee indicated it would be requesting turn-around times of 6 months or less for the NRC to complete its review. The NRC staff expressed some dissatisfaction with the timeliness and quality of some of the licensee's submittals. The NRC staff reminded the licensee of its prioritization and related review schedules for incoming licensing actions and indicated that for some items it was appropriate to allow for a longer review time than the licensee had anticipated. The quality was also not sufficient in some cases to support the accelerated schedules requested by the licensee. The accelerated review schedules requested by the licensee also placed greater resource burdens on the NRC staff, especially for those requests involving multiple review branches and were inconsistent with the NRC staff's review of completion goals.

The licensee indicated that for some of the forthcoming submittals, they would be willing to meet with the staff, as necessary, to facilitate a better understanding of the licensee's requests and associated technical justifications. The NRC staff stated that it would consider the licensee's offer on an as needed basis.

The licensee offered that in each submittal it would state a turnaround date usually to be completed in less than 6 months. The NRC staff stated that such requests ensue urgent actions and should be reserved for extraordinary situations. The licensee stated that it would provide proper justification. The staff stated that it should not just justify each accelerated case, it should assume a 12-month turnaround time, the NRC's goals for licensing actions, and to request and justify only the emergency and unusual cases.

Consistent Distribution: The NRC has been receiving documents from AmerGen in an inconsistent manner. For example, the NRC Project Manager receives letter for Oyster Creek addressed to the wrong individual, or does not receive all the correspondence pertinent to Oyster Creek, or receives the correspondence related to other AmerGen plants. The NRC stated that the expectation was that the NRC Project Manager should receive an advanced hardcopy of all the documents related to Oyster Creek. The NRC will continue to monitor this area.

Discussion of the Schedule of Future Licensing Submittals

Enclosure 3 lists the licensing actions which AmerGen anticipates in the near future. The NRC stated that of the 22 documents, only 1 would give the NRC the routine time of review of 12 months. AmerGen will reevaluate the schedule to reserve the time of less than 1 year only for unforeseeable emergencies.

Discussion of Current Licensing Actions

Enclosure 4 lists the Oyster Creek licensing actions currently under review by the NRC.

Since October 2000, the NRC has completed the review of 26 licensing actions with many having a review time of only 4 months.

The NRC staff completed the review of the following multiplant action items:

MA9398 - Seismic Design

M83652 - IPEEE for External Events (GL 88-20)

M96843 - Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity, GL 96-06, Supplement 4

M97078 - GL 96-05 MOV Capability Periodic Verification

MA5822 - Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal

The NRC issued a letter on the release of land for unrestricted use completing TAC No. MA6935.

The NRC issued License Amendment No. 219 on January 24, 2001, on laboratory testing of nuclear-grade activated charcoal related to GL 99-02. This completes TAC No. MA7804.

The NRC issued an approval of indirect license transfer related to the merger of PECO and Unicom on December 21, 2000. This completed TAC No. MA8489.

The NRC issued License Amendment No. on October 25, 2000, on the surveillance frequency of excess flow check valves. This completed TAC No. MA8492.

On November 2, 2000, the NRC issued License Amendment No. 217 on the core spray sparger inspection and to delete the reporting requirements. This action completes TAC No. MA8560.

On November 3, 2000, the NRC granted Relief Request 25 on the examination of pressure retaining bolts. This action completed TAC No. MA9077.

On November 3, 2000, the NRC approved a one-cycle extension for the core support wedge modification. This action completed TAC No. MA9463.

On October 5, 2000, the NRC approved the indirect license transfer related to the interim Exelon organization. This action completed TAC No. MA9545.

On February 14, 2001, the NRC staff completed TAC No. MA9666 on the potential NOED associated with the ESW pumps.

On November 3, 2000, the NRC issued License Amendment No. 218 on the SLMCPR for Cycle 18. This action completed TAC No. MA9790.

On November 2, 2000, the NRC issued a letter making a proprietary determination on documents associated with the SLMCPR amendment. This action completed TAC No. MA9961.

On April 27, 2001, the NRC issued License Amendment No. 220 on the dual role of the STA. This action completed TAC No. MA9964.

On February 12, 2001, the NRC staff issued a letter accepting AmerGen's withdrawal of TSCR 275 on September 15, 2001. This action completed TAC No. MB0447.

On February 14, 2001, the NRC issued a letter stating that it did not need to review the report on the core spray spargers because it issued License Amendment No. 217 approving the deletion of reporting requirements. This action completed TAC No. MB0448.

On November 16, 2000, the NRC approved an alternative repair on an urgent request to use an alternative repair for the CRD Housing and stub tube. This action completed TAC No. MB0461.

On April 4, 2001, the NRC issued a letter making a proprietary determination on documents associated with the radiological consequence analysis supporting a proposed amendment request on control room habitability. This action completed TAC No. MB1192.

Conclusion

The meeting was very successful in discussing its organizations expectations, needs, and experience in improving communication to be more timely. Also, it clarified issues for the quality and timeliness of the licensee's submittals. The NRC staff will continue to monitor the timeliness and quality of submittals, planning for submitting applications in a planned and thoughtful manner, and improving communications.

/RA/

Helen N. Pastis, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

Enclosures: 1. Agenda
2. List of Meeting Participants
3. AmerGen Handouts
4. NRC Handout for Review Milestones

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March 21, 2001

MEETING WITH AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LCC

LICENSING ISSUES STATUS

Purpose: To discuss progress on issues raised at the December 20, 2000, and the status of licensing actions.

1:00 - 1:15	Introduction	H. Pastis, NRC
1:15 - 1:30	Update on Issues Discussed at the December 20, 2000 Meeting	H. Pastis
	Timely Communications	
	Quality of Submittals	
	Quality of Technical Specification Pages	
	Timely Receipt of Submittals	
	Timely Planning of Future Submittals	
	Consistent Distribution	
1:30 - 2:45	Status of Deferred Items and Schedule of Future Licensing Actions	J. Hutton, AmerGen G. Rombold, AmerGen
2:45 - 3:00	Concluding Remarks	H. Pastis, NRC

MARCH 21, 2001

MEETING WITH AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

LIST OF ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
H. Pastis	NRC/NRR/DLPM/PD1, Section 1
J. Hutton	AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
G. Rombold	AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
R. Pinney	State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection

MARCH 21, 2001

MEETING WITH AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

LICENSING ACTIVITIES LIST

NRC MEETING HANDOUT

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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

cc:

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MARCH 21, 2001

MEETING WITH AMERGEN ENERGY COMPANY, LLC

FUTURE LICENSING ACTIONS

LICENSEE MEETING HANDOUT