

November 19, 1992

Docket No. 50-443

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum, Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
Post Office Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

SUBJECT: SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION, EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM
(ERDS) IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (TAC NO. M83063)

By letter dated October 28, 1991, you requested an exemption from the requirements of Appendix E of 10 CFR 50 to allow you to defer installation of the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS).

Appendix E, Section VI(4)(d) of 10 CFR 50 requires each licensee to install ERDS by February 13, 1993. You requested a delay of implementation until March, 1994, because of a planned replacement of your Main Plant Computer System (MPCS). The computer replacement will be completed during the third refueling outage scheduled to begin March, 1994. We have reviewed the request and agree that installation of ERDS may be delayed in light of the planned installation on the new computer.

The Commission has granted this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12. A copy of the exemption is enclosed and is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Gordon E. Edison, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

*See previous concurrence

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NAME	TClark <i>TC</i>	GEdison:pd	JHickman	JJolicoeur	<i>W/rev</i>
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NAME	WButler <i>WB</i>	JCalvo	SVarga <i>FOR</i>		
DATE	11/19/92	11/19/92	11/19/92	/ /	/ /

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

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and Chief Nuclear Officer
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
Post Office Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G E Edison".

Gordon E. Edison, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

Seabrook Station

cc:

Thomas Dignan, Esq.
John A. Ritsher, Esq.
Ropes and Gray
One International Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2624

Mr. George L. Iverson, Director
New Hampshire Office of Emergency
Management
State Office Park South
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Mr. Peter Brann
Assistant Attorney General
State House, Station #6
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Seabrook Nuclear Power Station
Post Office Box 1149
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
20th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

North Atlantic Energy Service
Corporation
Seabrook Station
Route 1, Lafayette Road
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874
ATTN: Ted C. Feigenbaum

Board of Selectmen
Town of Amesbury
Town Hall
Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913

Mr. T. L. Harpster
North Atlantic Energy Service
Corporation
Post Office Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Mr. Jack Dolan
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region I
J.W. McCormack Post Office &
Courthouse Building, Room 442
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Town of Exeter
10 Front Street
Exeter, New Hampshire 03823

Mr. David Rodham, Director
Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency
400 Worcester Road
P. O. Box 1496
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701-0317
ATTN: James Muckerheide

Gerald Garfield, Esq.
Day, Berry and Howard
City Place
Hartford, Connecticut 06103-3499

John P. Arnold, Attorney General
G. Dana Bisbee, Associate Attorney
General
Attorney General's Office
25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Mr. R. M. Kacich
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P. O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Congressman Nicholas Mavroules
U.S. House of Representatives
70 Washington Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Jane Spector
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
825 North Capital Street, N.E.
Room 8105
Washington, D.C. 20426

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE) Docket No. 50-443
CORPORATION)
SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION)

EXEMPTION

I.

The North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (NAESCO) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-86, which authorizes operation of the Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 reactor at a steady-state power level not in excess of 3411 megawatts thermal. The facility is a pressurized water reactor located at the licensee's site in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. This license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

II.

Section VI(4)(d) of Appendix E to 10 CFR 50, states that "Each licensee shall complete implementation of the ERDS [Emergency Response Data System] by February 13, 1993, or before initial escalation to full power, whichever comes later."

By letter dated October 28, 1991, the Seabrook licensee requested a schedular exemption from the requirements of Section VI(4)(d) of Appendix E. The licensee stated that they planned a replacement of the Seabrook Station, Unit 1 computer system during the third refueling outage scheduled to begin March, 1994.

III.

In developing the ERDS rule, the NRC staff provided implementation guidance in NUREG-1394, Revision 1. Appendix J (Question 3) indicates that a cost of \$20K to \$50K was envisioned for plants where no new hardware was required. The licensee has indicated that if the exemption is not granted, it would be required to install two different ERDS for the same reactor within one year at an additional cost (above that estimated in NUREG-1394) of as much as \$50K. In addition, software resources (staff) would have to be diverted from the main plant computer changeout to a redundant ERDS installation. This would represent redundant and unnecessary cost. The licensee stated it will install ERDS at the same time it is completing installation of the new main plant computer, and, therefore, will comply with the intent of the regulation.

As indicated in NUREG-1394, Revision 1, Appendix J, the NRC response role in an emergency will not materially change due to the ERDS. The ERDS is for NRC information only. Also, the ERDS does not change the licensee's emergency procedures or response plan.

For these reasons, we conclude that granting a schedular exemption from Appendix E, Section VI(4)(d) of 10 CFR 50 will relieve the licensee from unnecessary hardship and redundant costs of installing and testing two ERDS systems within one year, costs significantly in excess of those contemplated when the rule was adopted. Therefore, the licensee's request is granted.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(1), this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission further determines that special circumstances, as provided in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii), are present justifying the exemption.

Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants an exemption as described in Section III above from Appendix E, Section VI(d)(4) of 10 CFR Part 50 to extend the completion date of the ERDS.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of the Exemption will have no significant impact on the environment (57 FR 47126).

This Exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
original signed by
Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 19th day of November 1992.
*See Previous concurrence

OFFICE	LA: PDI-3	PM: PDI-3	PD III-2*	AEOD*	*OGC
NAME	TCTark	GEdison:pd	JHickman	JJolicoeur	MYoung
DATE	11/19/92	11/19/92	09/29/92	09/30/92	11/19/92
OFFICE	PD: PDI-3	AD: RI	D: DRPE		
NAME	WButler	JCalvo	SVarga		
DATE	11/19/92	11/19/92	11/19/92	/ /	/ /

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