

January 17, 1992

Docket No. 50-443

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum, President
and Chief Executive Officer
New Hampshire Yankee Division
Public Service Company of New Hampshire
Post Office Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - SEABROOK STATION (TAC NO. M79076)

Enclosed is a copy of an Environmental Assessment relating to your November 13, 1990 application for a license amendment for the Seabrook Station as supplemented by letters dated January 14, 1991 and August 28, 1991. The proposed amendment would transfer ownership from Public Service Company of New Hampshire to North Atlantic Energy Corporation.

The original copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment Notice

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

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Washington, D.C. 20555

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Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

Seabrook

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIREDOCKET NO. 50-443ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 issued to the Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH, the licensee) for operation of the Seabrook Station located in Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would change the license to transfer partial ownership of Seabrook Station from PSNH to North Atlantic Energy Corporation (NAEC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Utilities (NU).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 13, 1990, as supplemented by letters dated January 14, 1991, and August 28, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The licensee, PSNH, proposes to transfer its ownership share of Seabrook Station to NAEC. The transfer to NAEC is required to reflect the pending merger of PSNH and NU. This action would transfer only the ownership-interest of PSNH to NAEC. In a separate application, it was requested that the authority to operate Seabrook be transferred from PSNH to a separate subsidiary of

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NU, the North Atlantic Energy Service Company (NAESCO). The transfer of the PSNH's ownership interest to NAEC will not affect the operation of the facility or the facility's Technical Specifications.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the license. The proposed revisions would allow PSNH to transfer its ownership interest in Seabrook Station to NAEC. There will be no changes to the operation and maintenance staff, or to the facility or the environment as a result of the license amendment. No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impact.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Seabrook Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted with the Department of Justice regarding an anti-trust review.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on February 28, 1991 (56 FR 8373). A petition for leave to intervene, which was filed following this notice, was denied by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The Commission's affirmance of that denial became final agency action on November 15, 1991.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 13, 1990, as supplemented by letters dated January 14, 1991, and August 28, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, Lower Level, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the local public document room, located at Exeter Public Library, 47 Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of January 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Walter R. Butler

Walter R. Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation