

Docket No. 50-443

October 22, 1991

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. M79077)

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 15, 1991, January 22, 1991, April 9, 1991, June 12, 1991 and September 16, 1991. The proposed amendment would transfer managing authority from New Hampshire Yankee to North Atlantic Energy Service Company.

The original copy of the Notice of 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

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

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PDR

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment Notice

cc w/enclosure:
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Handwritten initials/signature

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

Seabrook

cc:

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Adjudicatory File (2)
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Washington, D.C. 20555

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

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIREDOCKET NO. 50-443ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO 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 allow the operation and maintenance of Seabrook Station by North Atlantic Energy Service Company (NAESCO), 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 15, 1991, January 22, 1991, April 9, 1991, June 12, 1991, and September 16, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The licensee, PSNH, proposes to transfer the operation and maintenance of Seabrook Station to NAESCO. The transfer to NAESCO entails the transfer of Seabrook Station Operating and support staff from New Hampshire Yankee (NHY) to NAESCO. All staff and functions for safety, environmental, security, emergency planning, and related disciplines will continue after the amendment, as before. There will be no physical or operational changes associated with this amendment other than the change in name only (to NAESCO) of the operations, maintenance, engineering and other nuclear related personnel.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the license. The proposed revisions would allow the licensee to transfer the operations and maintenance of Seabrook Station to NAESCO. The operation and maintenance staff of NHY will transfer to NAESCO. There will be no changes to the facility or the environment as a result of the license amendment. No changes are being made in the types 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 environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the license involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

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 March 6, 1991 (56 FR 9384). The licensee's January 15, 1991, January 22, 1991, April 9, 1991, June 12, 1991, and September 16, 1991, supplemental letters provided additional information relating to the application, within the scope of the March 6, 1991 notice. No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

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 and would result in not meeting NRC requirements.

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 did not consult other agencies or persons.

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.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 13, 1990 as supplemented by letters dated January 15, 1991, January 22, 1991, April 9, 1991, June 12, 1991, and September 16, 1991, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Exeter Public Library, 47 Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this *14th* day of *October* 1991.

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