

June 20, 1996

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Northeast Utilities Service Company
c/o Mr. Terry L. Harpster
Director - Nuclear Licensing Services
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION, UNIT 1 - FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE RELATED TO
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST 96-17 (TAC M95694)

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

The Commission has forwarded the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing" to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

The notice relates to your June 20, 1996, application to amend the Technical Specifications to increase the allowed outage time for an inoperable service water cooling tower loop electrical supply to be the same as the allowed outage time for an inoperable service water cooling tower loop.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager
Northeast Utilities Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443
Serial No. SEA-96-005

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 20, 1996

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Northeast Utilities Service Company
c/o Mr. Terry L. Harpster
Director - Nuclear Licensing Services
P.O. Box 128
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Albert W. De Agazio, Sr.", written in dark ink.

Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager
Northeast Utilities Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443
Serial No. SEA-96-005

Enclosure: As Stated

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T. Feigenbaum
Northeast Utilities Service Company

Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

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Town of Amesbury
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Amesbury, MA 01913

T. Feigenbaum
Northeast Utilities Service Company

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Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

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Portsmouth, NH 03801

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE COMPANY, ET AL.

DOCKET NO. 50-443

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 issued to North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (the licensee) for operation of the Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 located in Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

The proposed amendment would modify the Appendix A Technical Specifications (TSs) for the Electrical Power Systems, Onsite Power Distribution. Specifically, the proposed amendment would change Seabrook Station Appendix A Technical Specification 3.8.3.1, Action a. to increase from 8 hours to 7 days the allowable time that 480-volt Emergency Bus #E64 may be less than fully energized.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of

accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis against the standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c). The NRC staff's review is presented below.

- A. The changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated (10 CFR 50.92(c)(1)) because, even with bus E64 inoperable, there remains redundant, operable equipment within the same Train which is capable of supporting continued plant operation. Bus E64 supplies electrical power to components associated with service water cooling tower loop Train B only. The inoperability of bus E64 does not affect any of the components associated with ocean service water loop Train B nor does it affect any Train A components. Thus, if bus E64 is inoperable, the Train B ocean service water loop remains operable and capable of providing cooling during normal and accident conditions in addition to the Train A ocean service water and cooling tower service water loops. Therefore, since the response of the plant to an accident is unchanged, the proposed changes will not result in a significant increase in either the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.
- B. The changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated (10 CFR 50.92(c)(2)) because the changes do not cause the associated structures, systems, or components to be operated outside their original design envelope. No

changes are made to the design or manner of operation of structures, systems, or components, and no new failure mechanisms are introduced. The proposed changes merely make the allowed outage time for bus E64 equivalent to the allowed outage time for one service water cooling tower loop being inoperable.

- C. The changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety (10 CFR 50.92(c)(3)) because, even with bus E64 inoperable, there remains redundant, operable equipment within the same Train capable of supporting continued plant operation. The Bases for Technical Specification 3.8.3.1 states in part that the operability of the AC power sources and distribution systems ensures that sufficient power is available to supply safety-related equipment required for the safe shutdown of the facility, and the mitigation and control of accident conditions within the facility, and that the action requirements specified for the levels of degradation provide restriction for continued plant operation commensurate with the level of degradation. Therefore, the assumptions in the Bases of the Technical Specifications are not affected and the proposed changes will not result in a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

Based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By July 26, 1996, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and

who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Exeter Public Library, Founders Park, Exeter, New Hampshire. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has

filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the

opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to Phillip F. McKee: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Lillian M. Cuoco, Esquire, Northeast Utilities Service Company, Post Office Box 270, Hartford CT 06141-0270, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated June 20, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Exeter Public Library, Founders Park, Exeter, New Hampshire.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of June 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager
Northeast Utilities Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation