November 29, 1995

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

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT NO. 46 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-86: TEMPERATURE LIMIT FOR REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM CONTROL (SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT 4.4.7 AND TABLE 3.4-2) - LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST 95-02 (TAC M92524)

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 46 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 for the Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1, in response to your application dated June 7, 1995.

The amendment revises the Appendix A Technical Specifications (TS) relating to Reactor Coolant System chemistry. Specifically, the amendment revises the footnotes to Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.4.7 and Table 3.4-2 to increase the temperature above which reactor coolant sampling and analysis for dissolved oxygen is required and dissolved oxygen limits apply.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager Project
Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443
Serial No. SEA-95-028

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 46 to NPF-86
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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cc:

Lillian M. Cuoco, Esq.
Senior Nuclear Counsel
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06037

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

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Seabrook Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 1149
Seabrook, NH 03874

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

Mr. T. L. Harpster
North Atlantic Energy Service
Corporation
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

Town of Exeter
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03823

Mr. R. M. Kacich, Director
Nuclear Planning, Licensing & Budgeting
Northeast Utilities Service Company
P.O. Box 128
Waterford, CT 06385

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

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commmission
475 Allendale Road

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

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

Mr. Jack Dolan
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region I
J.W. McCormack P.O. &
Courthouse Building, Room 442
Boston, MA 02109

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

Jeffrey Howard, Attorney General
G. Dana Bisbee, Deputy Attorney
General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORPORATION, ET AL*

DOCKET NO. 50-443

SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 46
License No. NPF-86

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation, et al. (the licensee), dated June 7, 1995, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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*North Atlantic Energy Service Company (NAESCO) is authorized to act as agent for the: North Atlantic Energy Corporation, Canal Electric Company, The Connecticut Light and Power Company, Great Bay Power Corporation, Hudson Light and Power Department, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, Montaup Electric Company, New England Power Company, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Taunton Municipal Light Plant, and The United Illuminating Company, and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   (2) Technical Specifications

   The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 46, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B are incorporated into Facility License No. NPF-86. NAESCO shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance, to be implemented within 60 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Phillip F. McKee, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: November 29, 1995

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 46

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-86

DOCKET NO. 50-443

Replace the following pages of Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove	Insert
3/4 4-25	3/4 4-25
3/4 4-26	3/4 4-26

3/4 4.7 CHEMISTRY

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.4.7 The Reactor Coolant System chemistry shall be maintained within the limits specified in Table 3.4-2.

APPLICABILITY: At all times.

ACTION:

MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4:

a. With any one or more chemistry parameter in excess of its Steady-State Limit but within its Transient Limit, restore the parameter to within its Steady-State Limit within 24 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours; and

b. With any one or more chemistry parameter in excess of its Transient Limit, be in at least HOT STANDBY within 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

At All Other Times:

With the concentration of either chloride or fluoride in the Reactor Coolant System in excess of its Steady-State Limit for more than 24 hours or in excess of its Transient Limit, reduce the pressurizer pressure to less than or equal to 500 psig, if applicable, and perform an engineering evaluation to determine the effects of the out-of-limit condition on the structural integrity of the Reactor Coolant System; determine that the Reactor Coolant System remains acceptable for continued operation prior to increasing the pressurizer pressure above 500 psig or prior to proceeding to MODE 4.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.4.7 The Reactor Coolant System chemistry shall be determined to be within the limits by analysis of those parameters specified in Table 3.4-2 at least once per 72 hours.*

*Sample and analysis for dissolved oxygen is not required with $T_{avg} \leq 250°F$

TABLE 3.4-2

REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM CHEMISTRY LIMITS

PARAMETER	STEADY-STATE LIMIT	TRANSIENT LIMIT
Dissolved Oxygen*	< 0.10 ppm	≤ 1.00 ppm
Chloride	< 0.15 ppm	≤ 1.50 ppm
Fluoride	≤ 0.15 ppm	≤ 1.50 ppm

*Limit not applicable with T_{avg} less than or equal to 250°F

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 46 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-86

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORPORATION

SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-443

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated June 7, 1995, North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic/the licensee) proposed an amendment to the Appendix A Technical Specifications (TS) for the Seabrook Station, Unit 1 (Seabrook). The proposed amendment would increase the temperature limits above which (1) reactor coolant sampling and analysis for dissolved oxygen is required and (2) when limits for dissolved oxygen apply. Specifically, the temperature limit stated in the footnotes to TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.4.7 and to Table 3.4-2 would be increased to 250°F from 180°F.

2.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

Currently, SR 4.4.7 requires sampling and analysis of reactor coolant for dissolved oxygen and Table 3.4-2 specifies a dissolved oxygen limit whenever T_{avg} is greater than 180°F. North Atlantic has proposed to revise SR 4.4.7 and Table 3.4-2 by raising this temperature to 250°F. North Atlantic asserts that this change is consistent with current industry guidelines and practices for control of reactor coolant dissolved oxygen and that the change will enhance operational flexibility when returning the plant to service from cold shutdown conditions.

As discussed in Section 5.2.3.2d of the Seabrook Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR), the purpose of the temperature limit for Reactor Coolant System (RCS) oxygen control is to minimize the corrosive effect at high temperatures on RCS components. At elevated temperatures, dissolved oxygen can lead to stress corrosion cracking and general corrosion of RCS components. North Atlantic notes that industry guidance and practice indicate that these mechanisms do not prevail at temperatures below 250°F; thus, these effects are reduced to a point of little concern at temperatures less than 250°F and operating controls need not be implemented until the coolant exceeds this temperature. North Atlantic notes further that the proposed changes are consistent with Standard Westinghouse Technical Specifications and with those of other plants of similar size and vintage.

The practice at Seabrook during plant heatup is to introduce hydrazine into the RCS to scavenge oxygen from the coolant when the RCS temperature is below 180°F to comply with the requirements of TS 3/4 4.7. However, because of the slow

reaction rate of hydrazine with oxygen at or below 180°F and because hydrazine simultaneously is decomposing rapidly, the effective removal rate of oxygen is slow. Thus, it is necessary to suspend heatup above 180°F until the dissolved oxygen is lowered to within the limit specified in Table 3.4-2.

The reaction rate of hydrazine with dissolved oxygen increases rapidly with increasing temperature. Thus, as temperature increases, the rate of oxygen scavenging relative to the hydrazine decomposition rate becomes greater and the removal of dissolved oxygen by hydrazine becomes more effective. The concentration of dissolved oxygen in the coolant could be brought into compliance with the specified limit faster if heatup could proceed above 180°F. North Atlantic's proposal to increase the temperature limit for applicability to 250°F would decrease the time needed to achieve compliance with the dissolved oxygen limit and decrease the overall time to restart the unit from cold shutdown.

The staff agrees that other similar Westinghouse units have adopted the Westinghouse Standard Technical Specification (NUREG-0450, Revision 4) with regard to the temperature limit of 250°F for applicability of the requirements for sampling, analysis, and dissolved oxygen limit. Further, the staff agrees that below 250°F, the influence of dissolved oxygen in the reactor coolant is not significant with regard to stress corrosion cracking and general corrosion of RCS components. Therefore, the staff finds acceptable, North Atlantic's proposals to change the footnote to SR 4.4.7 to indicate that sampling and analysis for dissolved oxygen when T_{avg} is equal to or less than 250°F is not required and to change the footnote to Table 3.4-2 to indicate that the limit for dissolved oxygen does not apply when T_{avg} is equal to or less than 250°F.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New Hampshire and Massachusetts State officials were notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State officials had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes a surveillance requirement. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (60 FR 37098). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Albert De Agazio

Date: November 29, 1995