

January 21, 1999

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
c/o Mr. Terry L. Harpster
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSE NO. NPF-86, SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. MA1326)

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 59 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 for the Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1, in response to your License Amendment Request 97-06 dated March 2, 1998.

The amendment changes the Technical Specifications (TS) by eliminating the emergency diesel generator accelerated testing and special reporting requirements of TS 4.8.1.1.2a, 4.8.1.1.3, Table 4.8-1, and 4.8.1.2, in accordance with U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Generic Letter 94-01. The staff has reviewed the submittal for these changes and, based on our review, we find the proposed changes to be acceptable.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

John T. Harrison, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 59 to NPF-86
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl.: See next page

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*see previous concurrence

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John T. Harrison".

John T. Harrison, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 59 to NPF-86
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl.: See next page

DATED: January 21, 1999

AMENDMENT NO. 59 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-86
SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1

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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. 59
License No. NPF-86

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

- A. The application for amendment by the North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation, et al. (the licensee), dated March 2, 1998, 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.

*North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (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 & Power Department, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, Montaup Electric Company, New England Power Company, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc., Taunton Municipal Light Plant, The United Illuminating Company, and Vermont Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., 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. Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NFP-86 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 59 , and the Environment 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 its date of issuance, to be implemented within 60 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William M. Dean', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William M. Dean, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: January 21, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO.59

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-86

DOCKET NO. 50-443

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

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ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEM

A.C. SOURCES

OPERATING

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.1.1.1 Each of the above required independent circuits between the offsite transmission network and the Onsite Class 1E Distribution System shall be:

- a. Determined OPERABLE at least once per 7 days by verifying correct breaker alignments, indicated power availability, and
- b. Demonstrated OPERABLE at least once per 18 months during shutdown by transferring (manually and automatically) unit power supply from the normal circuit to the alternate circuit.

4.8.1.1.2 Each diesel generator shall be demonstrated OPERABLE:*

- a. At least once per 31 days on a STAGGERED TEST BASIS by:
 - 1) Verifying the fuel level in the day fuel tank;
 - 2) Verifying the fuel level in the fuel storage tank;
 - 3) Verifying the fuel transfer pump starts and transfers fuel from the storage system to the day tank;
 - 4) Verifying the lubricating oil inventory in storage;
 - 5) Verifying the diesel starts from standby conditions and attains a generator voltage and frequency of 4160 ± 420 volts and 60 ± 1.2 Hz within 10 seconds after the start signal. The diesel generator shall be started for this test by using one of the following signals:
 - a) Manual, or
 - b) Simulated loss-of-offsite power by itself, or

*All planned starts for the purpose of these surveillances may be preceded by an engine prelube period.

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

A.C. SOURCES

OPERATING

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.1.1.2 (Continued)

- h. At least once per 10 years by draining each fuel oil storage tank, removing the accumulated sediment and cleaning the tank using a sodium hypochlorite solution, or equivalent.

4.8.1.1.3 (THIS SPECIFICATION NUMBER IS NOT USED)

TABLE 4.8-1

(THIS TABLE NUMBER IS NOT USED)

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

A.C. SOURCES

SHUTDOWN

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.1.2 As a minimum, the following A.C. electrical power sources shall be OPERABLE:

- a. One circuit between the offsite transmission network and the Onsite Class 1E Distribution System, and
- b. One diesel generator with:
 - 1) A day fuel tank containing a minimum fuel volume fraction of 3/8 (600 gallons of fuel),
 - 2) A fuel storage system containing a minimum volume of 60,000 gallons of fuel,
 - 3) A fuel transfer pump,
 - 4) Lubricating oil storage containing a minimum total volume of 275 gallons of lubricating oil, and
 - 5) Capability to transfer lubricating oil from storage to the diesel generator unit.

APPLICABILITY: MODES 5 and 6.

ACTION:

With less than the above minimum required A.C. electrical power sources OPERABLE, immediately suspend all operations involving CORE ALTERATIONS, positive reactivity changes, movement of irradiated fuel, or crane operation with loads over the fuel storage pool, and within 8 hours, depressurize and vent the Reactor Coolant System through a greater than or equal to 1.58-square-inch vent. In addition, when in MODE 5 with the reactor coolant loops not filled, or in MODE 6 with the water level less than 23 feet above the reactor vessel flange, immediately initiate corrective action to restore the required sources to OPERABLE status as soon as possible.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.8.1.2 The above required A.C. electrical power sources shall be demonstrated OPERABLE by the performance of each of the requirements of Specifications 4.8.1.1.1a, AND 4.8.1.1.2a [except for Specification 4.8.1.1.2a.6].

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS

3/4.8.2 D.C. SOURCES

OPERATING

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

3.8.2.1 As a minimum, the following D.C. electrical sources shall be OPERABLE and energized:

- a. Train A
 - 1) 125-volt Battery Banks 1A and 1C,
 - 2) One full-capacity battery charger on Bus #11A, and
 - 3) One full-capacity battery charger on Bus #11C.
- b. Train B
 - 1) 125-volt Battery Banks 1B and 1D,
 - 2) One full-capacity battery charger on Bus #11B, and
 - 3) One full-capacity battery charger on Bus #11D.

APPLICABILITY: MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4.

ACTION:

- a. With one of the required battery banks in one train inoperable, close the bus tie to connect the remaining operable battery bank to the D.C. bus supplied by the inoperable battery bank within 2 hours; restore the inoperable battery bank to OPERABLE status within 30 days* or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.
- b. With one of the full-capacity chargers inoperable, restore the inoperable charger to OPERABLE status within 2 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.8.2.1 Each 125-volt battery bank and charger shall be demonstrated OPERABLE:
- a. At least once per 7 days by verifying that:
 - 1) The parameters in Table 4.8-2 meet the Category A limits, and
 - 2) The total battery terminal voltage is greater than or equal to 128 volts on float charge.
 - b. At least once per 92 days and within 7 days after a battery discharge with battery terminal voltage below 110 volts, or battery overcharge with battery terminal voltage above 150 volts, by verifying that:

*No more than one battery at a time may be taken out of service for more than 30 days.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 59 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 letter dated March 2, 1998, North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (NAESCO) submitted a request for changes to the Seabrook Station Technical Specifications (TS). The requested changes would eliminate the accelerated testing and special reporting requirements for emergency diesel generators in TS 4.8.1.1.2a, 4.8.1.1.3, Table 4.8-1, and 4.8.1.2, in accordance with Generic Letter (GL) 94-01.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The NRC issued GL 94-01 on May 31, 1994, in response to the Commission decision on SECY-93-044, "Resolution of Generic Safety Issue B-56, 'Diesel Generator Reliability'." The GL advised licensees that they could request a license amendment to remove accelerated testing and special reporting requirements for emergency diesel generators (EDG) from plant TS.

However, the GL indicated that licensees must have a maintenance program for monitoring and maintaining EDG reliability in order to modify the TS. The GL specified that the licensee's maintenance program must meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (the Maintenance Rule), and Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." Implementation of 10 CFR 50.65 for all safety-significant plant equipment, including the EDG's, would eliminate unnecessary EDG testing, and improve overall EDG reliability.

3.0 EVALUATION

3.1 Technical Specification Changes Proposed by NAESCO

In their License Amendment Request (LAR) 97-06, NAESCO proposed to revise the current Seabrook TS to remove EDG accelerated testing and special reporting requirements as follows:

- 3.1.1 Change 1 re: TS 4.8.1.1.2a:** The licensee proposes to change Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.8.1.1.2a. to specify EDG testing at least once every 31 days.

This proposed change will eliminate the accelerated testing requirements for diesel generators as specified in Table 4.8-1 of the TS. This proposed change is consistent with GL 94-01 guidance. Removal of accelerated testing was recommended in GL 94-01 to eliminate unnecessary testing of diesel generators and to improve the overall reliability of diesel generators. The licensee's March 2, 1998, letter indicates that, as required by GL 94-01, the Maintenance Rule Program established for the Seabrook Station is consistent with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.65, RG 1.160, and Nuclear Utility Management and Resources Council guideline NUMARC 93-01, "Industry Guide for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." Accordingly, the staff finds the proposed change to be acceptable. Because the licensee is required to monitor and maintain EDG performance in accordance with 10 CFR 50.65, there is no need to duplicate this requirement in the plant TS.

3.1.2 Change 2 re: Table 4.8-1: The licensee proposes to delete TS Table 4.8-1, "Diesel Generator Test Schedule."

This proposed change is consistent with the elimination of accelerated testing requirements for diesel generators, as recommended in GL 94-01, and is acceptable. Since revised SR 4.8.1.1.2a. will specify EDG test frequency, the table is no longer needed, and it is appropriate to remove the table from the TS.

3.1.3 Change 3 re: TS 4.8.1.1.3 and TS 4.8.1.2: The licensee proposes to delete SR 4.8.1.1.3. and reference to SR 4.8.1.1.3 in SR 4.8.1.2 to remove EDG failure reporting requirements from the TS.

This proposed change is consistent with GL 94-01 guidance and is acceptable. Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50.72 "Immediate Notification Requirements for Operating Nuclear Power Reactors," and Part 50.73 "Licensee Event Report System" require NAECSO to notify the NRC about EDG performance problems. The licensee's March 2, 1998, letter specifically states that reporting requirements for EDG failures will continue to be complied with in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73.

3.2 The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL) Opposition to Proposed TS Revisions

On May 22, 1998, The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League (SAPL) wrote to the Commission expressing, among other things, concern that changes in the diesel generator testing schedules might reduce plant safety. SAPL's letter documented formal opposition to several licensee applications for TS revisions, including LAR 97-06. SAPL expressed concern that the proposed TS revision results in lowering the testing standards for the EDGs, and increases the risk to on- and off-site personnel in the event of an accident at the plant.

GL 94-01 specifically focuses on resolution of Generic Safety Issue B-56, "Diesel Generator Reliability," and has resulted in changes to the regulatory guidance related to EDG surveillance testing intended to enhance EDG reliability and availability. The staff believes that unnecessary testing of EDGs promotes premature aging and component failure due to accelerated testing requirements which are counterproductive to nuclear plant safety.

GL 94-01 provides for enhanced reliability of EDG's by shifting the specific requirements governing EDG testing from the TS to a comprehensive maintenance program designed to meet the provisions of 10 CFR 50.65, the Maintenance Rule. Implementation of the Maintenance Rule in accordance with RG 1.160 and associated Nuclear Utility Management and Resources Council guideline NUMARC 93-01 as proposed in GL 94-01, includes the performance of necessary corrective maintenance, performance of detailed root cause analysis of individual EDG failures, and implementation of preventive maintenance activities focused on enhancing EDG reliability and performance.

The licensee's March 2, 1998, letter states that, since the implementation of the 10 CFR 50.65 Maintenance Rule at the Seabrook Station in July 1996, both EDGs have demonstrated acceptable performance. The licensee's decisions concerning balancing the benefits of preventive maintenance and time out of service necessary to conduct maintenance activities have resulted in highly reliable EDGs with unavailability factors consistent with assumptions in the Seabrook Station PRA. The NRC staff's 1997 baseline inspection of the Seabrook Station Maintenance Rule Program found that the design of the program and its implementation were consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65.

Based on these considerations, the staff finds that SAPL's concerns, regarding lowering of EDG testing standards and increased post-accident risk to the public resulting from the licensee's application for TS revisions implementing the guidance of GL 94-01, are not valid.

3.3 Conclusion

The staff has evaluated the licensee-proposed changes documented in Section 3.1. The staff finds that the proposed TS changes are acceptable because, the changes are either formulated to improve the reliability and performance of the emergency diesel generators; or they are administrative and intended to clarify the TS.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

5.0 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 surveillance requirements. 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 (63 FR 19971). Public comments

from The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League were received. The staff response to the comments concerning LAR 97-06 is provided in section 3.2 of this safety evaluation. The comments do not affect the staff's proposed no significant hazards consideration determination. 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.

6.0 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 of the Seabrook Station 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: S. Patrick Sekerak

Date: January 21, 1999

7.0 REFERENCES

1. U.S. NRC paper SECY-93-044, "Resolution of Generic Safety Issue B-56, 'Diesel Generator Reliability'," February 22, 1993.
2. U.S. NRC Regulatory Guide 1.160, Rev. 2, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," March 1997.
3. U.S. NRC Generic Letter 94-01, "Removal of Accelerated Testing and Special Reporting Requirements for Emergency Diesel Generators," May 31, 1994.
4. NUMARC 93-01, Rev. 3, "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," Nuclear Energy Institute, May 1996.
5. NRC Maintenance Rule Team Inspection Report No. 50-443/97-80, March 31, 1997.
6. The Seacoast Anti-Pollution League letter re:North Atlantic Energy Services Corp., Docket No. 50-443, Seabrook Station, Unit 1, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, May 22, 1998.