

December 29, 1993

Docket No. 50-443
Serial No. SEA-93-029

Distribution:
Docket File
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Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
Post Office Box 300
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP SHARE OF VERMONT
ELECTRIC GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE, INC. TO NORTH
ATLANTIC ENERGY CORPORATION (TAC M87313)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact relating to your August 27, 1993, application for a license amendment for the Seabrook Station. The proposed amendment would revise the Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 operating license to reflect the transfer of the Vermont Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc.'s 0.41259% undivided ownership interest 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:

Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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P PDR

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NAME	SNorris	ADeAgazio:cn	JStolz	AGody	<i>[initials]</i>
DATE	12/30/93	12/22/93	12/22/93	1/193	12/29/93

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NAME	<i>[Signature]</i> SNorris	ADeAgazio:cn	JStolz	AGody	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE	12/20/93	12/22/93	12/22/93	1/193	12/21

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

December 29, 1993

Docket No. 50-443
Serial No. SEA-93-029

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Senior Vice President
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert W. De Agazio, Sr.".

Albert W. De Agazio, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

Seabrook Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORPORATION, ET AL.
SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1
DOCKET NO. 50-443
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would approve the transfer of ownership of Vermont Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc's. (Vermont) 0.41259 percent share of Seabrook 1 to North Atlantic Energy Company (NAEC). A license amendment would be issued to change the footnote on page 1 of Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 by deleting Vermont, as one of the entities for which North Atlantic is authorized to act.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

In 1990, Vermont filed a claim against Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) with the United States Bankruptcy Court which was then hearing a petition from PSNH for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. Vermont's claim sought redress for damages which were

alleged to have been incurred while PSNH had been the managing agent for Seabrook 1. In November 1990, the two parties arrived at a settlement which included an agreement by PSNH or its designee to purchase Vermont's share of Seabrook 1 subject to obtaining the necessary approvals from all regulatory agencies. Subsequently, the Bankruptcy Court issued an order approving the stipulation that PSNH and Vermont had filed describing the settlement.

In June 1992, in accordance with the Plan of Reorganization for PSNH that was confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court, Northeast Utilities (NU) acquired PSNH in merger transactions and, after receipt of NRC approval, NAEC (a newly-formed and wholly-owned subsidiary of NU) acquired PSNH's interest in the Seabrook 1. As the successor to PSNH's interest in Seabrook 1, NAEC is obligated to purchase Vermont's interest in Seabrook Station. The transfer of Vermont's ownership share in Seabrook 1 to NAEC will consummate the settlement entered into by Vermont and PSNH.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would approve the transfer of ownership of 0.41259 percent of Seabrook 1 from Vermont to NAEC. The transfer will not involve any changes to the Seabrook 1 staff, to the facility itself, or in the manner by which Seabrook 1 is operated.

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed action and has determined that the probability or consequences of accidents would not be increased by the transfer of ownership, and that post-accident radiological releases would not be greater than previously determined. Further, the Commission has determined that the transfer of ownership would

not affect routine radiological plant effluents and would not increase occupational radiological exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the transfer of ownership would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested approval. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are identical.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Seabrook Station, Units 1 and 2, dated December 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff consulted with the State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State of New Hampshire and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had no comments on the proposed action.

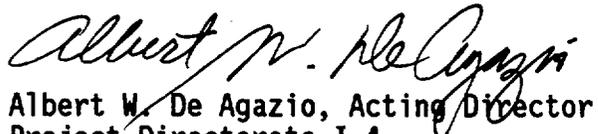
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for approval dated August 27, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW; Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Exeter Public Library, 47 Front Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of December 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Albert W. De Agazio, Acting Director
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation