

October 1, 1999

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

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE:
RELOCATION OF AREA TEMPERATURE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS
(TAC NO. MA4531)

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 63 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 for the Seabrook Station, Unit No 1, in response to your application dated December 16, 1998.

The amendment relocates Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.7.10 "Area Temperature Monitoring," and the associated TS Table 3.7-3, to the Technical Requirements Manual, which is referenced in the Seabrook Station Updated Final Safety Analysis Report and is the implementing manual for the TS improvement program referenced in Section 6.7 of the TSs.

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,

Original signed by:

John T. Harrison, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 63 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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North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Harrison".

John T. Harrison, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 63 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

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORPORATION, ET AL.*

DOCKET NO. 50-443

SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 63
License No. NPF-86

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation, et al. (the licensee), dated December 16, 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 has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

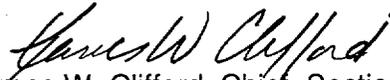
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-86 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 63 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 its date of issuance, to be implemented within 90 days of issuance, including relocation of requirements to the Seabrook Station Technical Requirements Manual.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: October 1, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 63

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-86

DOCKET NO. 50-443

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

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xii*
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(THIS TABLE NUMBER IS NOT USED)

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Surveillance to demonstrate OPERABILITY is by performance of the requirements of an approved inservice inspection program.

Permanent or other exemptions from the surveillance program for individual snubbers may be granted by the Commission if a justifiable basis for exemption is presented and, if applicable, snubber life destructive testing was performed to qualify the snubbers for the applicable design conditions at either the completion of their fabrication or at a subsequent date. Snubbers so exempted shall be listed in the list of individual snubbers indicating the extent of the exemptions.

The service life of a snubber is established via manufacturer input and information through consideration of the snubber service conditions and associated installation and maintenance records (newly installed snubbers, seal replaced, spring replaced, in high radiation area, in high temperature area, etc.). The requirement to monitor the snubber service life is included to ensure that the snubbers periodically undergo a performance evaluation in view of their age and operating conditions. These records will provide statistical bases for future consideration of snubber service life.

3/4.7.8 SEALED SOURCE CONTAMINATION

The limitations on removable contamination for sources requiring leak testing, including alpha emitters, is based on 10 CFR 70.39(a)(3) limits for plutonium. This limitation will ensure that leakage from Byproduct, Source, and Special Nuclear Material sources will not exceed allowable intake values.

Sealed sources are classified into three groups according to their use, with Surveillance Requirements commensurate with the probability of damage to a source in that group. Those sources which are frequently handled are required to be tested more often than those which are not. Sealed sources which are continuously enclosed within a shielded mechanism (i.e., sealed sources within radiation monitoring or boron measuring devices) are considered to be stored and need not be tested unless they are removed from the shielded mechanism.

3/4.7.9 (THIS SPECIFICATION NUMBER IS NOT USED.)

3/4.7.10 (THIS SPECIFICATION NUMBER IS NOT USED.)



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 63 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 December 16, 1998, the North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) submitted License Amendment Request (LAR) 98-15 which requests changes to the Seabrook Station Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed amendment relocates Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.7.10 "Area Temperature Monitoring," and the associated TS Table 3.7-3, to the Seabrook Station Technical Requirements Manual (SSTR), which is referenced in the Seabrook Station Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and is the implementing manual for the TS improvement program referenced in Section 6.7 of the TSs.

The licensee stated that the requirements for area temperature monitoring do not need to be controlled by TS because (1) their inclusion in the TSs is not required by 10 CFR 50.36 or other regulations, (2) the requirements are not required to avert an immediate threat to the public health and safety, (3) area temperature monitoring was not identified as a significant risk contributor, based upon the Probabilistic Risk Assessment Summary report for the MERITS Program contained in Section 4 of WCAP-11618, and (4) changes to these requirements will be adequately controlled by the provisions pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 to determine if an unreviewed safety question (USQ) exists which, if a USQ exists, will require NRC staff approval prior to implementation.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Section 182a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) requires applicants for nuclear power plant operating licenses to include the TSs as part of the license. The Commission's regulatory requirements related to the content of the TSs are set forth in 10 CFR 50.36. That regulation requires that the TS include items in eight specific categories. The categories are (1) safety limits, limiting safety system settings, and limiting control settings; (2) limiting conditions for operation; (3) surveillance requirements; (4) design features; (5) administrative controls; (6) decommissioning; (7) initial notification; and (8) written reports. However, the regulation does not specify the particular requirements to be included in a plant's TSs.

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The Commission amended 10 CFR 50.36 (60 FR 36593, July 19, 1995), and codified four criteria to be used in determining whether a particular matter is required to be included as a limiting condition for operation (LCO), as follows: (1) Installed instrumentation that is used to detect, and indicate in the control room, a significant abnormal degradation of the reactor coolant pressure boundary; (2) a process variable, design feature, or operating restriction that is an initial condition of a design-basis accident or transient analysis that either assumes the failure of, or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; (3) a structure, system, or component that is part of the primary success path and which functions or actuates to mitigate a design-basis accident or transient that either assumes the failure of, or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; or (4) a structure, system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic safety assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety. LCOs and related requirements that fall within or satisfy any of the criteria in the regulation must be retained in the TSs, while those requirements that do not fall within or satisfy these criteria may be relocated to licensee-controlled documents. While the criteria specifically apply to LCOs, in adopting the revision to the Rule the Commission noted that the staff had used the intent of these criteria to identify the optimum set of administrative controls in the TS (60 FR 36957).

3.0 EVALUATION

The area temperature limits for the Seabrook Station have been established to ensure that environmentally qualified equipment will not be exposed to temperatures beyond that to which they were originally qualified. The limits and the corresponding plant locations are contained in the current TS 3/4.7.10. The consequences of exceeding the area temperature limits are that extended exposure to elevated temperatures could contribute to equipment degradation and cause the degradation to exceed the rate assumed by the facility environmental qualification (EQ) program.

The North Atlantic EQ program is described in the Seabrook Station Equipment Qualification Manual and UFSAR Sections 3.11 and 7.5. The EQ program is based, in part, on the requirements and guidelines of 10 CFR 50.49, "Environmental Qualification of Electric Equipment Important to Safety for Nuclear Power Plants," 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 4, "Environmental and Missile Design Bases," and NUREG-0588, Revision 1, "Interim Staff Position on Environmental Qualification of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment."

The staff reviewed information provided by North Atlantic and agrees that the requirements related to area temperature monitoring do not satisfy any of the criteria which would necessitate that they be included in the TSs. This instrumentation (1) is not used to detect a significant abnormal degradation of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, (2) is not a process variable that is an initial condition of a design basis accident (DBA) or transient analysis that assumes either the failure of, or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier, (3) is not a structure, system, or component that is part of the primary success path which functions or actuates to mitigate a DBA or transient that either assumes the failure of, or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier, and (4) is not a structure, system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic safety assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety. In addition, relocating TS 3/4.7.10 "Area Temperature

Monitoring," and the associated TS Table 3.7-3, to the SSTR, which is referenced in the Seabrook Station UFSAR and will be controlled according to 10 CFR 50.59, ensures that changes to these requirements will be controlled in a manner that is acceptable to the staff.

In summary, the staff has reviewed the proposed TS changes and considers them to be acceptable since 10 CFR 50.36 does not require these items to be controlled by the TSs and control of changes by the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59 is adequate. The NRC staff also notes that the proposed change would make the Seabrook Station TSs consistent with the guidance provided in the NRC's Standard Technical Specifications, Westinghouse Plants (NUREG-1431), in that the NRC's Standard Technical Specifications do not include TSs requiring the operability of the plant area temperature monitoring system.

The staff has no objection to the deletion of the Bases associated with these TSs.

4.0 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.

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, and there has been no public comment on such finding (64 FR 6700). 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 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.

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PACKAGE DIVIDER