

October 9, 2001

Mr. Robert G. Byram
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
2 North Ninth Street
Allentown, PA 18101

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2 - ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT RE: DELETION OF NOTE EXTENDING INTERVAL OF RESIDUAL
HEAT REMOVAL RELIEF VALVE LINE LEAK RATE TESTING SURVEILLANCE
(TAC NO. MB0640)

Dear Mr. Byram:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 171 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated November 16, 2000.

This amendment deletes a note in TS Surveillance Requirement 3.6.1.1.1 which extended the leak rate testing surveillance interval on the 2S299A and 2S299B spectacle flange o-rings until the Unit 2 10th refueling outage or a prior Unit 2 outage requiring entry into Mode 4. The note, added in Amendment No. 160 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 which was issued on May 8, 2000, was necessitated because of a Notice of Enforcement Discretion documented in our letter dated April 11, 2000. This note is no longer required to be included in TS 3.6.1.1.1 because the surveillance test was conducted during the Unit 2 forced outage in August of 2000.

A copy of our safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's Biweekly Federal Register Notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-388

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 171 to
License No. NPF-22
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-388

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 171
License No. NPF-22

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) having found that:
 - A. The application for the amendment filed by PPL Susquehanna, LLC, dated November 16, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's 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 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 set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - 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.

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 the Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 171 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. PPL Susquehanna, LLC 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 and shall be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Lakshminaras Raghaven, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: October 9, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 171

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-22

DOCKET NO. 50-388

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE

3.6-2

INSERT

3.6-2

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 171 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-22

PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-388

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated November 16, 2000, PPL Susquehanna, LLC (the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Unit 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would delete a note in TS Surveillance Requirement 3.6.1.1.1 which extended the leak rate testing surveillance interval on the 2S299A and 2S299B spectacle flange o-rings until the Unit 2 10th refueling outage or a prior Unit 2 outage requiring entry into Mode 4.

2.0 BACKGROUND

During the spring 2000 Unit 1 refueling outage, the licensee identified the installation of an additional o-ring in the Unit 1 spectacle flange 1S299B. The licensee determined that it could not demonstrate that the containment boundary had been adequately tested with the additional o-ring. A review of documentation by the licensee concluded that the incorrect o-ring configuration existed on the Unit 2 spectacle flanges 2S299A and 2S299B. Removal of the Unit 2 spectacle flange o-rings during power operation required a breach of the primary containment boundary, rendering the primary containment inoperable.

The licensee requested enforcement discretion to defer the required leakage rate testing of spectacle flange 2S299A and 2S299B o-rings until the Unit 2 10th refueling outage or prior entry into Mode 4, when primary containment operability is not required. A Notice of Enforcement Discretion related to TS 3.6.1.1.1 was issued verbally on April 8, 2000, and documented on April 11, 2000. An application dated April 10, 2000, requested that TS 3.6.1.1.1 be modified to add a note allowing operation of Unit 2 until an outage occurs where leak rate surveillance testing on spectacle flanges can be performed. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Amendment No. 160 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 on May 8, 2000, which added the note to TS 3.6.1.1.1. The leak rate surveillance test on the

Unit 2 spectacle flanges 2S299A and 2S299B was successfully conducted during the Unit 2 forced outage in August of 2000.

3.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has proposed to delete the note in TS 3.6.1.1.1 which extended the leak rate test surveillance interval for the Unit 2 spectacle flange 2S299A and 2S299B o-rings until the next Unit 2 refueling outage or prior entry into Mode 4, when primary containment operability is not required. This extension of the leak rate surveillance test interval was a one time change to be effective until the Unit 2 10th refueling outage or prior entry into Mode 4, when primary containment operability is not required. The leak rate surveillance test was conducted on the Unit 2 spectacle flanges during the Unit 2 forced outage in August of 2000. The previous leak rate testing surveillance interval for the spectacle flanges has been resumed and the note is now obsolete. Therefore, the proposed change to TS 3.6.1.1.1 is acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Pennsylvania State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official 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 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 (66 FR 36343). 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.

Principal Contributor: Joseph Colaccino

Date: October 9, 2001

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