

October 29, 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, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE: CHANGE OF IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR AMENDMENT NO. 184 FOR UNIT 1 AND AMENDMENT NO. 158 FOR UNIT 2 (TAC NOS. MB2837 AND MB2838)

Dear Mr. Byram:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 196 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 and Amendment No. 172 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2. These amendments consist of changes to the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2 in response to your application dated August 31, 2001.

Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2 were originally issued on July 30, 1999, with a required implementation date of 30 days following startup from the spring 2000 Unit 1 eleventh refueling inspection outage. By Amendment No. 187 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 161 for Unit 2, issued June 2, 2000, the implementation date for these amendments was revised to November 1, 2001. The enclosed amendments extend the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2 from November 1, 2001, to November 1, 2003.

Amendment Nos. 184 and 158 approved technical specification changes to incorporate requirements related to oscillation power range monitoring (OPRM) instrumentation. The implementation date extension is needed to provide additional time to address a deficiency in the OPRM trip setpoint methodology. The deficiency was identified in a June 29, 2001, General Electric report filed pursuant to Part 21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

R. Byram

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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 Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 196 to
License No. NPF-14
2. Amendment No. 172 to
License No. NPF-22
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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Units 1 &2

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PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-387

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 196

License No. NPF-14

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 August 31, 2001, 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, Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 is amended to extend the implementation date of Amendment No. 184 issued July 30, 1999, to November 1, 2003.
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 P. Milano for/

L. Raghavan, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: October 29, 2001

PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-388

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 172
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 the PPL Susquehanna, LLC, dated August 31, 2001, 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, Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 is amended to extend the implementation date of Amendment No. 158 issued July 30, 1999, to November 1, 2003.
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 P. Milano for/

L. Raghavan, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: October 29, 2001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 196 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-14
AND AMENDMENT NO. 172 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-22
PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC
ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-387 AND 388

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 31, 2001, PPL Susquehanna, LLC (the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, facility operating licenses. The requested changes would revise the required implementation date for Amendment No. 184 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 158 for Unit 2. Amendment Nos. 184 and 158 approved Technical Specifications (TSs) changes to incorporate requirements related to oscillation power range monitoring (OPRM) instrumentation. The licensee stated that the implementation date extension is needed to provide time to address a deficiency in the OPRM trip setpoint methodology. The deficiency was identified in a June 29, 2001, General Electric report submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pursuant to Part 21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 21).

2.0 EVALUATION

In Amendment No. 184 to the Unit 1 TSs and Amendment No. 158 to the Unit 2 TSs, the TSs were amended to incorporate TS 3.3.1.3, "Oscillation Power Range Monitor (OPRM) Instrumentation," and to revise TS 3.4.1, "Recirculation Loops, Operating," to remove specifications related to thermal-hydraulic stability. The OPRM instrumentation is intended to automatically detect and suppress reactor core power instabilities. With full implementation of the OPRM system, the thermal-hydraulic stability requirements of TS 3.4.1 will no longer be required.

Amendment Nos. 184 and 158 were issued with a required implementation date of 30 days following startup from the spring 2000 Unit 1 eleventh refueling inspection outage. By Amendment Nos. 187 and 161, issued June 2, 2000, the implementation date for these amendments was revised to November 1, 2001. This change was necessary due to continued hardware and software design deficiencies that would have prevented the licensee from considering the OPRM system to be operable upon implementation of the amendment.

ENCLOSURE

The licensee stated in its August 8, 2001, letter that the trip setpoint methodology deficiency identified in the July 29, 2001, GE 10 CFR Part 21 report would similarly prevent the licensee from considering the OPRM system to be operable upon implementation of the amendment. Therefore, the licensee requested that the required implementation date for Amendment Nos. 184 and 158 be revised from November 1, 2001, to November 1, 2003. The Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) is leading development of a resolution to the trip setpoint methodology deficiency, as set forth in an August 31, 2001, GE report on this issue submitted to the NRC pursuant to 10 CFR Part 21. The NRC staff expects that the deficiency can be resolved on a generic basis, and that the staff would review any proposed resolution before implementation at any specific facility. The revised implementation date is expected to provide sufficient time to correct the trip setpoint methodology deficiency described in the GE 10 CFR Part 21 report.

The licensee is currently operating in accordance with interim corrective actions defined in TS 3.4.1. These requirements define operating restrictions that are intended to ensure that the plant is not operated under combinations of thermal power and core flow that are conducive to thermal-hydraulic instability. These requirements will remain in effect during the extended implementation period. Therefore, the licensee will continue to have requirements in place that provide adequate core protection during the extended implementation period.

Based on the information provided above, the NRC staff finds the proposed change to the implementation date for Amendment No. 184 to Facility Operating License NPF-14 and Amendment No. 158 to Facility Operating License NPF-22 to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Pennsylvania State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve 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 amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 48291). Accordingly, the amendments meet 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 amendments.

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 amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: R. Schaaf

Date: October 29, 2001

R. Byram

- 2 -

October 29, 2001

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
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