

October 5, 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 - REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: DEFERRAL OF CONTAINMENT
INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TESTING (TAC NOS. MB2894 AND MB2895)

Dear Mr. Byram:

By letters dated July 30 and September 7, 2001, PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL), proposed an amendment to modify the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station technical specifications to permit deferral of the Type A containment integrated leak rate test. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed PPL's request and has determined that additional information is required in order to complete our review. The additional information required is described in the enclosure.

This information request has been discussed with members of your staff and they have indicated that you would provide your response to the enclosed request by October 21, 2001.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-1312.

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

Enclosure: Request for Additional
Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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Units 1 &2

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RELATED TO REQUEST FOR DEFERRAL OF
CONTAINMENT INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TEST
PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC
ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-387 AND 50-388

The containment inservice inspection (ISI) requirements mandated by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a, and the containment integrated leak rate testing (ILRT) requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J (Type A, Option B), complement each other in ensuring the leak-tight and structural integrity of the containment. The staff's review of PPL Susquehanna, LLC's, (PPL's) letters dated July 30 and September 7, 2001, finds that PPL's amendment request does not contain information related to the containment ISI program. The staff needs the following information to complete its review of the license amendment request.

1. Please provide a description of the ISI that provides assurance that in the absence of an ILRT for 15 years, the containment structural and leak-tight integrity will be maintained. Please provide the specific year of the Edition and Addenda of the ASME Code used for containment ISI and the start date of the first 120-month containment ISI interval (and subsequent containment ISI intervals).
2. Subsubarticle IWE-1240 of Subsection IWE of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code requires you to identify the surface areas requiring augmented examinations. Please provide the locations of the containment liner surfaces which PPL has identified as requiring augmented examination, and a summary of findings of the examinations performed.
3. For the examination of seals and gaskets, and testing of bolts associated with the primary containment pressure boundary (Examination Categories E-D, and E-G), PPL had requested relief from the requirements of the ASME Code. As an alternative, PPL proposed to examine these components during the leak rate testing of the primary containment. With the flexibility provided in Option B of Appendix J for Type B and Type C testing (as per NEI 94-01 and RG 1.163), and the extension requested in this amendment for Type A testing, please provide a schedule for the examination and testing of seals, gaskets, and bolts associated with the containment pressure boundary.
4. The stainless steel bellows have been found to be susceptible to trans-granular stress corrosion cracking, and the leakages through them are not readily detectable by Type B testing (see Nuclear Regulatory Commission Information Notice 92-20, "Inadequate Local Leak Rate Testing," March 3, 1992). If applicable, please provide information regarding

ENCLOSURE

inspection and testing of the bellows at Susquehanna 1 and 2, and how the potential bellows degradation has been factored into PPL's risk assessment.

5. Inspections of some reinforced and steel containments have indicated degradation from the uninspectable (embedded) side of the steel liner of primary containments. These degradations cannot be found by VT-3 or VT-1 examinations unless they are through the thickness of the liner or 100% of the uninspectable surfaces are periodically examined by volumetric examination methods. Please describe how the potential leakages due to age-related degradation mechanisms described above are factored into the risk-informed assessment related to the extension of the ILRT.

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Robert G. Schaaf, Project Manager, Section 1
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