

Mr. D.E. Young, Vice President  
 Carolina Power & Light Company  
 H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,  
 Unit No. 2  
 3581 West Entrance Road  
 Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

August 24, 1999

SUBJECT: H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT UNIT 2 - FOLLOW UP EXIGENT AMENDMENT TO REVISE THE 8-HOUR ALLOWABLE OUTAGE TIME FOR THE ULTIMATE HEAT SINK TEMPERATURE TO 72 HOURS (TAC NO. MA6147)

Dear Mr. Young:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 184 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-23 for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 (HBR). This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated July 30, 1999.

This amendment revises TS 3.7.8, "Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS)," to permit a 72-hour delay in the UHS temperature restoration period prior to entering the plant shutdown required actions. Also, for the duration of the restoration, service water system (SWS) temperature will be monitored every hour after exceeding 95 degrees F and, if restoration does not occur within 72 hours, the plant will be placed in MODE 3 within 6 hours in accordance with the TS. This TS amendment is given as a temporary amendment change effective until September 30, 1999, after which the TS will revert back to the original TS provisions. Issuance of this amendment supersedes Notice of Enforcement Discretion 99-6-06, which was granted orally on July 31, 1999, and confirmed in writing on August 3, 1999.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's bi-weekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Ram Subbaratnam, Project Manager, Section 2  
 Project Directorate II  
 Division of Licensing Project Management  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-261

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 184 to License No. DPR-23
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

\*See previous concurrence

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PM:PDII-S2	LA:PDII-S2	SPLB:DSSA*	TSB:DRP	OGC	SC:PD II-S2	D:PDII
RSubbaratnam	EDunnington	JHannon	WBeckner	PPH	SPeters	HBerkow
8/12/99	8/12/99	8/13/99	8/13/99	8/18/99	8/19/99	8/21/99
Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No

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AMENDMENT NO. 184 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-23 - H. B. Robinson,  
UNIT 2

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

August 24, 1999

Mr. D.E. Young, Vice President  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,  
Unit No. 2  
3581 West Entrance Road  
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

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Ram Subbaratnam, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-261

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1. Amendment No. 184 to License No. DPR-23
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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H. B. Robinson Steam Electric  
Plant, Unit No. 2

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

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-261

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 184  
License No. DPR-23

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment filed by Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee), dated July 30, 1999, 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.
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. DPR-23 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 184 , are hereby incorporated in the license. Carolina Power & Light Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Sheri R. Peterson, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:  
Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 24, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 184

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-23

DOCKET NO. 50-261

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove Pages

3.7-21  
B 3.7-50

Insert Pages

3.7-21  
B 3.7-50

3.7 PLANT SYSTEMS

3.7.8 Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS)

LCO 3.7.8 The UHS shall be OPERABLE.

APPLICABILITY: MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4.

ACTIONS

NOTES

1. Conditions A and B and associated Required Actions and Completion Times shall only be applicable prior to, and on September 30, 1999.
2. Condition C and associated Required Actions and Completion Times shall only be applicable after September 30, 1999.

CONDITION	REQUIRED ACTION	COMPLETION TIME
<p>A. Service water temperature &gt; 95°F.</p>	<p>A.1 Restore service water temperature to ≤ 95°F.</p> <p><u>AND</u></p> <p>A.2 Verify service water temperature is ≤ 99°F.</p>	<p>72 hours</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p><u>AND</u></p> <p>Once per hour thereafter</p>

(continued)



BASES

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APPLICABLE  
SAFETY ANALYSES  
(continued)

The UHS satisfies Criterion 3 of the NRC Policy Statement.

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LCO

The UHS is required to be OPERABLE and is considered OPERABLE if it contains a sufficient volume of water at or below the maximum temperature that would allow the SWS to operate for at least 22 days following the design basis LOCA without the loss of NPSH, and without exceeding the maximum design temperature of the equipment served by the SWS. To meet this condition, the UHS temperature should not exceed 95°F and the level should not fall below 218 ft MSL during normal unit operation.

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APPLICABILITY

In MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4, the UHS is required to support the OPERABILITY of the equipment serviced by the UHS and required to be OPERABLE in these MODES.

In MODE 5 or 6, the OPERABILITY requirements of the UHS are determined by the systems it supports.

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ACTIONS

Notes 1 and 2 have been added in the ACTIONS to provide a clear expiration date for Conditions A and B and associated Required Actions and Completion Times, and a date that Condition C and its associated Required Actions and Completion Times will become applicable. Prior to midnight October 1, 1999, if the LCO is not met, refer to Conditions A or B and associated Required Actions and Completion Times. On midnight October 1, 1999, and thereafter, refer only to Condition C if the LCO is not met.

A.1

When service water temperature is greater than 95°F, it must be restored to  $\leq$  95°F within 72 hours. This Required Action is necessary to return operation to within the design basis of the Service Water System. The 72 hour Completion Time is acceptable considering the low probability of a Design Basis

(continued)

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

SAFETY EVALUATION

BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

ULTIMATE HEAT SINK TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

H. B. ROBINSON, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-261

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 30, 1999, Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L or the licensee) requested a temporary change to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit 2, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.90. Specifically, the licensee proposed to revise TS 3.7.8, "Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS)" to provide a new Required Action and Completion Time for the UHS in the event that service water (SW) temperature exceeds the design limit of 95 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). The proposed new Action would require restoring the SW temperature to within the design limit with a Completion Time of 72 hours in place of the currently allowed restoration time of 8 hours.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The licensee, in anticipation of the UHS temperature exceeding 95°F during the current summer, by a letter dated April 12, 1999 had requested an identical change to TS 3.7.8 as requested in the summer of 1998. This amendment, which was granted on June 4, 1999, via amendment number 183, is valid for the summer months until September 30, 1999, and allows plant operation above 95°F for up to 8 hours. The purpose of the change was to reduce the risk associated with plant shutdown transients.

Long-term resolution of this situation has been proposed in previous submittals, which include revising UHS Required Actions and Completion Times in the event that SW temperature exceeds the design limit either through an industry Technical Specification Task Force item (TSTF-330) that would allow extended Allowed Outage Time (AOT) for restoring the UHS temperature to  $\leq 95^\circ\text{F}$ , or alternately by increasing the UHS Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) temperature value from 95°F to 97°F. Specifically, on May 27, 1999, a TS change request was submitted to increase the maximum allowable UHS temperature from 95°F to 97°F. Due to the nature and complexity of this May 27, 1999 submittal, an NRC decision on this proposed amendment was requested by June 30, 2000.

A severe and sustained period of hot weather in the area of H. B. Robinson (HBR), combined with the thermal and hydrological characteristics of the UHS, have resulted in a situation where, on occasion, the existing 8-hour Completion Time may not be of sufficient duration to allow UHS temperature to return below 95°F. This extended period of severely hot weather is expected to last through the summer, and could result in unwarranted plant power reductions and shutdowns during a time of record energy demand.

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The UHS provides a heat sink for the operating and decay heat produced by various plant components during normal operation transients, and accidents. The SW System (SWS) and the Component Cooling Water (CCW) System are used to transfer heat from plant components to the UHS. The UHS at Robinson is defined as the Lake Robinson Impoundment, including necessary retaining structures, and the canals or conduits connecting the sources with, but not including, the cooling water intake structures. The UHS temperature is a function of insolation, operation of H. B. Robinson, Units 1 (fossil) and 2 (nuclear), hydrology of the Lake Robinson watershed, and meteorological conditions which affect the efficiency of evaporative cooling, natural convection, and diurnal radiant heat losses. During the summer, the average heat input due to insolation is comparable to the total heat input from both Robinson Units 1 and 2. Condensing cooling water and SW discharged from the plant are returned to greater Lake Robinson via a 4.2 mile-long discharge canal, which terminates in the lake near its upper end (SWS intake is at the lower end of the lake). During full power operation, the normal transient time of water through the discharge canal is approximately 3.5 hours. Hence, the effect of a plant shutdown in the event that the SWS temperature limit is exceeded will not immediately be effective on the temperature of the SW entering the plant. However, in the summer months during periods of hot weather, a diurnal effect of alternating insolation of the lake water during the day and increased radiant and evaporative heat loss during the night results in a variation of lake water temperature around a 24-hour cycle.

As TS 3.7.8 exists today and valid until September 30, 1999, condition A allows an 8-hour AOT for restoring the UHS temperature to  $\leq 95^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The proposed change revises the AOT for condition A to 72 hours instead of the currently allowed 8 hours.

### 3.0 EVALUATION

The NRC staff evaluated the safety rationale for the requested TS change and verified that the request to revise the 8-hour Completion Time of TS 3.7.8 to 72 hours involves minimal increase in risk to the safe operation of HBR. The SW temperature is an input to the containment analysis contained in Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) Section 6.2. The SW temperature is also a design assumption for the spent fuel pool cooling system (SFPCS), auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system, CCW system and its loads, the emergency diesel generators (EDGs), containment air recirculation cooling (CARC) system, room coolers for certain safety-related areas, and other non-safety-related systems. Where components rely upon SW temperature to maintain the components within operating temperature limits, the licensee's evaluation determined that the components could withstand SW temperatures up to  $99^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Since the summer of 1998, the licensee has further evaluated the capability of components cooled by the SW to perform their intended function. Some components, such as the EDGs, Containment Air Recirculation System Fan Coolers, Steam Driven Auxiliary Feedwater Pump, and CCW System (including Spent Fuel Pool Cooling), were specifically reevaluated because of the complex effect of operation at a higher SW temperature. In addition, the ability to achieve cold shutdown following a fire and a station blackout were evaluated at a higher SW temperature. These calculations and evaluations show that these components are fully capable of performing their intended safety function up to a SW temperature of  $99^{\circ}\text{F}$ . These submittals are currently under NRC review, and due to their nature and complexity, an NRC decision on this proposed amendment is not anticipated until June 30, 2000.

In order to avoid transients associated with plant derating that could result due to the unusually hot and dry weather that HBR has been experiencing this summer, the staff concludes that the 72-hour Completion Time requested in the TS change submittals should be allowed. The 72-hour Completion Time of Action A.1 for being slightly above the design basis temperature is acceptable on a temporary basis because 1) the SW-cooled equipment has been analyzed and found to remain within the manufacturer's limits in the event of an accident, 2) the probability of a design-basis accident occurring during the 72-hour period is small, and 3) the compensatory measures that were established and implemented previously for the 8-hour AOT will remain in place to assure continued functionality of the UHS and to minimize plant transients.

Based on these considerations, the staff had earlier concluded that Criterion 1 of Section B and the applicable criteria in Section C.4 to NRC Manual Chapter 9900, "Technical Guidance, Operations - Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED)," were met and granted a NOED. Criterion 1 of Section B states that for an operating plant, the NOED is intended to avoid an undesirable transient as a result of forcing compliance with the license condition, and thus minimize the potential safety consequences and operational risks. This exigent amendment supersedes and terminates the previously granted NOED. It revises TS 3.7.8 allowing the licensee to revise the action time required to restore the UHS temperature to  $\leq 95^{\circ}\text{F}$  from 8 hours to 72 hours and granted as a one-time amendment to last until September 30, 1999.

### 3.0 STATEMENT OF EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES

In its submittal, the licensee requested that the NRC review and approve the proposed change as an exigent amendment. The Commission's regulation as stated in 10 CFR 50.91 provides special exceptions for the issuance of amendments when the usual 30-day public notice cannot be met. The TS change is issued as a follow-up amendment to NOED 99-06-006, which was granted on August 3, 1999. The public notification used was a shortened individual Federal Register notice (64 FR 43406) with a comment period of 2 weeks and maintaining the normal 30-day period to request a hearing. A severe and sustained period of high temperature has caused record energy demand in South Carolina, and as a result, system reliability alert levels 1 and 2 have been invoked on occasions during the period of July 21 through July 30, 1999. Reliability alert level 2 is implemented when projected load and reserve requirements utilize the available capacity and administrative controls have been implemented during the same period to restrict maintenance and operational activities that have a risk of adversely affecting plant reliability. Lake Robinson has experienced unusually warm and dry weather conditions during the month of July 1999, and in fact, had to exceed the permitted 8-hour AOT under the currently allowed action times on two occasions, one on July 31, 1999, which prompted the request for the NOED, and again on August 1, 1999. Thus, there appears to be insufficient cooling before the onset of insolation on the next day with the diurnal cycle extending beyond the anticipated 24 hours unless there is intervention via other natural means such as a thunderstorm and more inflow from the Black Creek impoundment. This situation could not have been foreseen sufficiently in advance to avoid the need for exigent action on the proposed change. As the SW temperatures approach or exceed the design limit of  $95^{\circ}\text{F}$ , as seen on these two occasions, the potential exists for repetitive entry into a shutdown transient as diurnal Lake Robinson temperature variations occur. The exigent circumstance arises from the need to avoid transients associated with plant derating or shutdown until the long-term resolution of this condition is implemented. In view of the unusually hot and dry weather conditions that Robinson

Lake is facing, and the fact that the TS amendment is being approved as a one-time amendment effective until September 30, 1999, the NRC staff finds that (1) exigent circumstances exist, as provided for in 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6), in that the licensee and the Commission must act quickly and that time does not permit the Commission to publish a Federal Register notice allowing 30 days for prior public comment, and (2) the licensee has not failed to use its best efforts to make a timely application and avoid creating the exigent circumstance. The NRC has also determined that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, and that appropriate conditions existed which resulted in the need for the exigent request.

#### 4.0 FINAL NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION

The Commission has provided standards for determining whether a significant hazards consideration exists (10 CFR 50.92(c)). A proposed amendment to an operating license for a facility involves no significant hazards consideration if operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not: (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The licensee has analyzed the proposed amendment to determine if a significant hazards consideration exists, as follows:

- (1) Does the change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

The proposed change does not involve any physical alteration of plant systems, structures or components. The proposed change provides a revised allowed time for the plant condition where UHS temperature exceeds the design limit of 95°F. SW system temperature is not assumed to be an initiating condition of any accident analysis evaluated in the safety analysis report (SAR). Therefore, the revised limitation for SW temperature to be in excess of the design limit does not involve an increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated in the safety analysis report. The SW system supports operability of safety-related systems used to mitigate the consequences of an accident. Plant equipment has been analyzed and determined able to perform its safety-related function through the allowed maximum SW temperature of 99°F. Performance of the containment has not been the subject of a specific re-analysis at the proposed temperatures with current licensing basis methodologies. However, based on engineering judgement, the [effect] on containment performance from the elevated SW temperature for the proposed period of time would not be significant. The magnitude of any increase in SW temperature in excess of the design limit is expected to be small based on historical data and experience for the UHS. Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated in the SAR.

- (2) Does the change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

The proposed change does not involve any physical alteration of plant systems, structures or components. The temperature of the SW when near or slightly above the design temperature does not introduce new failure mechanisms for systems, structures or components not already considered in the SAR. Therefore, the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated is not created.

(3) Does this change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

The proposed change will allow a small increase in SW temperature above the design basis limit for a limited period of time. This will delay the requirement to shutdown the plant for an additional 64 hours beyond the currently 8 hours Completion Time. Design margins are affected which are associated with systems, structures and components which are cooled by the SW system, and system temperature is an input assumption for mitigating the effects of a DBA [design-basis accident]. However, allowing this additional time for SW temperature to exceed the design limit is expected to have a negligible [effect] on containment performance, and no adverse impact on other analyzed plant equipment. Therefore, there is no significant reduction in margin of safety associated with this proposed change.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and agrees with it. The staff thus makes a final determination that this amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

#### 4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

#### 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves a change in the 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 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 43406). 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 this amendment.

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

As a result of its evaluation as described above, the staff concludes that the proposed change to TS 3.7.8 provides a significant amount of additional flexibility without any significant reduction in plant safety. The proposed change is, therefore, acceptable.

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: Ram Subbaratnam

Date: August 24, 1999