

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

April 24, 2002

SUBJECT: CORE POWER UPRATE FOR CLINTON POWER STATION, UNIT 1

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

On February 14, 2002, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena on its review of the Clinton Power Station (CPS) extended power uprate (EPU) application. During the 490th meeting of the ACRS, on March 7, 2002, the NRR staff discussed the EPU with the full Committee. By letter dated March 14, 2002, the ACRS forwarded its comments on the staff's review of the CPS EPU application to Chairman Meserve. In that letter, the ACRS provided the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The proposed constant-pressure power uprate of 20 percent for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1, should be approved.
2. The staff has been conducting extensive reviews of codes, inputs, and methods for analysis of design-basis accidents at the uprated plant. These reviews make acceptable the exceptions taken by the licensee to the approved power uprate methodologies for such analyses.
3. The AmerGen program to monitor piping expected to suffer from significant flow-assisted corrosion at the uprated flow conditions should be rigorously conducted. The importance of this program should be communicated to NRC staff inspecting the uprated Clinton Power Station.

The staff's final safety evaluation (SE) for the CPS EPU was issued on April 5, 2002, along with the license amendment that approved the CPS EPU. Your conclusions and recommendations are addressed in the enclosure to this document.

Sincerely,

/RA by William F. Kane Acting For/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Staff Response to ACRS Comments

cc w/encl: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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*See Previous Concurrence

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OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION RESPONSE TO
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
LETTER DATED MARCH 14, 2002
RELATED TO THE EXTENDED POWER UPRATE FOR THE
CLINTON POWER STATION

1. **The proposed constant-pressure power uprate of 20 percent for the Clinton Power Station, Unit 1, should be approved.**

The staff's final safety evaluation (SE) for the CPS EPU was issued on April 5, 2002, along with the license amendment that approved the CPS EPU. (The ADAMS Accession No. for the proprietary SE is ML020860533, and for the non-proprietary SE is ML020950423).

2. **The staff has been conducting extensive reviews of codes, inputs, and methods for analysis of design-basis accidents at the uprated plant. These reviews make acceptable the exceptions taken by the licensee to the approved power uprate methodologies for such analyses.**

The staff is continuing to improve its reviews of extended power uprate applications. A public lessons-learned workshop was held on March 19, 2002, to discuss the recent extended power uprate applications and reviews.

3. **The AmerGen program to monitor piping expected to suffer from significant flow-assisted corrosion at the uprated flow conditions should be rigorously conducted. The importance of this program should be communicated to NRC staff inspecting the uprated Clinton Power Station.**

The NRR staff has written a memorandum to Region III staff about the potential impact of the increased steam and water flows on the flow-assisted corrosion (FAC) program at Clinton.

The NRR staff is developing a power uprate inspection procedure to be included with the special and infrequent inspections described in Manual Chapter 2515, Appendix C. The procedure will invoke all or part of Inspection Procedure 49001, "Inspection of Erosion/Corrosion Monitoring Programs" to review the licensees' FAC program during NRC power uprate inspections.

ENCLOSURE