

May 24, 2002

Mr. John L. Skolds, President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF
THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINFIELD ENERGY CENTER POWER PLANT
ON THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE LIMERICK GENERATING STATION
(MB4990 AND MB4991)

Dear Mr. Skolds:

You may be aware that FPL Energy (FPLE) is planning to construct a 550-megawatt, gas-fired power plant, the Linfield Energy Center, at a location adjacent to Exelon Generation Company's (Exelon) Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Units 1 and 2. The staff has been monitoring the potential construction of the Linfield Energy Center for some time. While the Linfield Energy Center is not within the regulatory authority of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the construction and operation of the facility may have potential safety implications for LGS. It appears that the original design of LGS Units 1 and 2 did not consider a facility like the Linfield Energy Center within close proximity to LGS.

In Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 100.10, the Commission specifies factors to be considered when evaluating sites for nuclear facilities. It states that reactors are expected to have an extremely low probability for accidents that could result in the release of significant quantities of radioactive fission products, and that, should an accident occur, the reactor facility should ensure a low risk of public exposure. NRC staff guidance on the identification of potential hazards in the vicinity of the site is described in NUREG-800, "Standard Review Plan [SRP] for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants," SRP No. 2.2.1 - 2.2.2. NRC staff guidance on the evaluation of potential hazards is described in SRP No. 2.2.3 of NUREG-0800. Section 2.2.3 of the LGS Units 1 and 2 Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) describes Exelon's evaluation of potential accidents in nearby transportation and industrial facilities, some of which were used to determine the design of LGS Units 1 and 2. The previous licensee, PECO Energy Company, completed this evaluation during initial plant licensing and did not consider an industrial facility the size or in the location of what is being planned by FPLE.

The construction and operation of a gas-fired power plant within close proximity to LGS has the potential to adversely affect the analyses described in Section 2.2.3 of the LGS Units 1 and 2 UFSAR. As a result, the NRC requests that you assess the impact of construction and operation of the proposed power plant on LGS Units 1 and 2. If your assessment determines that the impact adversely affects the analyses currently described in the UFSAR, please update the LGS Units 1 and 2 UFSAR and other related documents. As part of your assessment and response, the NRC staff specifically requests that you address those issues identified by Mr. Thomas DiBello, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Limerick Township, that are documented

J. Skolds

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in the attachment to the enclosed letter to Chairman Meserve from Senator Specter dated May 2, 2002, as they relate to the proposed Linfield Energy Center project and its impact on the safe operation of LGS.

Several issues identified by the Limerick Township regarding the proposed power plant need not be addressed in your response to us. These issues are: violation of Township ordinances; unspecified concerns by the Montgomery County Planning Commission; deficiencies in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection air quality permit review process; conflicts with certain qualifying criteria, such as noise levels and local growth management policies; and, Township concerns about the construction of the Linfield Energy Center creating a potential threat to homeland security.

As we discussed with your staff by telephone on May 14, 2002, we understand that you will be able to provide your response to this request within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1055.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher Gratton, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353

Enclosure: Ltr to Chairman Meserve from Senator Specter
dated May 2, 2002, with attached letter to
Senator Specter from T. DiBello
dated April 30, 2002

cc w/encl: See next page

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Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

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Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 & 2

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The Honorable Arlen Specter
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