

May 17, 2002

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: ADOPTION OF NRC-APPROVED GENERIC CHANGES TO
IMPROVED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (TAC NOS. MB3640 AND MB3641)

Dear Mr. Byram:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 203 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 and Amendment No. 177 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2. These amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated December 10, 2001.

These amendments revise TS 3.7.3, "Control Room Emergency Outside Air Supply (CREOAS) System," to establish a new condition and required action to address degradation of the control room habitability envelope pressure boundary. Specifically, the changes allow the control room habitability envelope boundary to be opened intermittently under administrative control. A new condition is also added that allows 24 hours to restore the control room habitability envelope to operable status before entry into shutdown Limiting Condition for Operation 3.0.3 is required. These changes are based on Technical Specifications Task Force-287, Revision 5, to the Standard Technical Specifications.

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/

Timothy G. Colburn, Sr. 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. 203 to
License No. NPF-14
2. Amendment No. 177 to
License No. NPF-22
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

R. Byram

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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. 203
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 December 10, 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, 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 the Facility Operating License No. NPF-14 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 203 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. PPL Susquehanna, LLC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Richard J. Laufer, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: May 17, 2002

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 203

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-14

DOCKET NO. 50-387

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

3.7-6
3.7-7
3.7-8

INSERT

3.7-6
3.7-7
3.7-8

PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-388

SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 177
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 December 10, 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, 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 the Facility Operating License No. NPF-22 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 177 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. PPL Susquehanna, LLC shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Richard J. Laufer, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: May 17, 2002

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 177

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-22

DOCKET NO. 50-388

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

3.7-6
3.7-7
3.7-8

INSERT

3.7-6
3.7-7
3.7-8

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 203 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-14
AND AMENDMENT NO. 177 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 December 10, 2001, PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL, the licensee), submitted a request for changes to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (SSES-1 and 2), Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes revise TS 3.7.3, "Control Room Emergency Outside Air Supply (CREOAS) System," to establish a new limiting condition for operation and required actions to address degradation of the control room habitability envelope pressure boundary. Specifically, the changes allow the pressure boundaries of the CREOAS System to be opened intermittently under administrative control. The changes also allow 24 hours to restore the capability to maintain proper pressure in the control room habitability envelope before entry into shutdown Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.0.3 is required. These changes are based on Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF)-287, Revision 5, to NUREG-1433, "Standard Technical Specifications for General Electric Plants (BWR/4)," Revision 1.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.7.3.4 tests the integrity of the control room habitability envelope boundary and requires a positive pressure limit to be satisfied with one CREOAS subsystem operating. While other SRs in TS 3.7.3 of the SSES-1 and 2 TSs test the operability of the subsystems (i.e., heaters, filters, and actuation signals), SR 3.7.3.4 ensures that control room habitability envelope pressure boundary leak tightness is adequate to meet design-basis assumptions. However, there are no corresponding Conditions, Required Actions, and Completion Times associated with this boundary surveillance.

Currently, if the control room habitability envelope pressure boundary is breached, neither CREOAS subsystem will be able to maintain the positive pressure required by SR 3.7.3.4. Such a condition renders both subsystems inoperable, and requires entry into LCO 3.0.3 (during operation in MODES 1, 2, or 3).

Section 6.5.1 of the Standard Review Plan (SRP) requires control room habitability systems to meet the standards of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50,

Appendix A, General Design Criteria (GDC) 4, 5, and 19. For this situation, only GDC 19 is applicable. GDC 19 requires the control room to provide operators with adequate protection from the effects of radiation during a design basis accident. This requirement forms the regulatory acceptance criteria for the licensee's request.

The proposed changes to the TSs incorporate TSTF-287, Revision 5, to allow 24 hours (during operation in MODES 1, 2, or 3) to restore the capability to maintain proper pressure before requiring the units to perform an orderly shutdown. The changes also allow intermittent opening of the control room habitability envelope under administrative control.

On August 11, 2000, NRC staff approved a similar amendment incorporating TSTF-287 criteria into the TSs at Duane Arnold Energy Center.

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

The proposed changes to LCO 3.7.3 are as follows:

- a. A new Condition B is added to LCO 3.7.3 to specify that 24 hours are allowed to restore an inoperable control room habitability envelope to operable status. All other Conditions have been administratively re-labeled to support this change.
- b. Condition E of LCO 3.7.3 for two CREOAS subsystems inoperable in MODES 1, 2, or 3 is modified to exclude entry into LCO 3.0.3 when the subsystems are inoperable due to an inoperable control room habitability envelope.
- c. A note is added which allows the control room habitability envelope boundary to be opened intermittently under administrative controls.

The staff reviewed the requirements of TSTF-287, Revision 5 for applicability to the licensee's request, and the SRP requirements for the control room habitability envelope.

The proposed changes would adopt TSTF-287, Revision 5, without changes except for use of nomenclature that is consistent with SSES-1 and 2 system and equipment designations.

Upon implementation of the proposed changes, if the control room habitability envelope pressure boundary is inoperable in MODES 1, 2, or 3 such that the CREOAS subsystems cannot establish or maintain the required pressure, the boundary must be restored within 24 hours. In TSTF-287, the staff concluded that requiring the plant to immediately enter LOC 3.0.3 when the control room habitability envelope is not intact is excessive, and that allowing the 24-hour Completion Time gives the licensee ample time to effect repairs on the system. The staff also considered the 24-hour Completion Time to be reasonable based on the low probability of a design-basis accident (DBA) occurring during this time period and compensatory measures available to the operator to minimize the consequences of potential hazards.

To maintain consistency in LCO 3.7.3 pursuant to the addition of new Condition B, existing Condition D (re-labeled as Condition E) must also be modified to allow continued operations in MODES 1, 2, or 3 if the CREOAS subsystems are inoperable due to an inoperable control room habitability envelope.

LCO 3.7.3 is modified by a note allowing the control room habitability envelope boundary to be

opened intermittently under administrative controls. For entry and exit through doors, the administrative control of the opening is performed by the person(s) entering or exiting the area. For other openings, a dedicated individual, who is in continuous communication with the control room, is stationed at the opening. In its letter dated December 10, 2001, the licensee states that this individual will have a method to rapidly close the opening when a need for control room habitability envelope isolation is indicated.

In its letter dated December 10, 2001, the licensee states that during the period that the control room habitability envelope pressure boundary is inoperable, it shall take appropriate compensatory measures consistent with the intent of GDC 19 to protect control room personnel from potential hazards such as radiation, radioactive contamination, toxic chemicals, smoke, temperature and relative humidity, and to ensure physical security. The compensatory measures will be available to address these concerns for intentional and unintentional entry into the proposed new Condition B.

Based on the low probability of a DBA occurring during the 24-hour Completion Time associated with Condition B, the availability of compensatory measures consistent with GDC 19 to minimize the consequences during an event, and the implementation of the administrative controls mentioned in the above evaluation, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed changes are acceptable.

4.0 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.

5.0 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 (67 FR 10014). 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: E. Thomas

Date: May 17, 2002

R. Byram

- 2 -

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/

Timothy G. Colburn, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
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Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 203 to License No. NPF-14
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cc w/encls: See next page

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