

February 4, 2003

Mr. John L. Skolds, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENTS (TAC NOS. MB6333 AND MB6334)

Dear Mr. Skolds:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 159 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-11 and Amendment No. 145 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-18 for the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments are in response to your application dated September 19, 2002, as supplemented by letter dated December 26, 2002.

The amendments add a new analytical method to Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS) Section 5.6.5, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)."

A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William A. Macon, Jr., Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373, 50-374

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 159 to NPF-11
2. Amendment No. 145 to NPF-18
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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Dear Mr. Skolds:

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The amendments add a new analytical method to Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS) Section 5.6.5, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)."

A copy of the Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William A. Macon, Jr., Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373, 50-374

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 159 to NPF-11
2. Amendment No. 145 to NPF-18
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-373

LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 159
License No. NPF-11

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee), dated September 19, 2002, as supplemented by letter dated December 26, 2002, 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 enclosure to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of the Facility Operating License No. NPF-11 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. 159, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

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

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA by LRaghavan for/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: February 4, 2003

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-374

LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 145
License No. NPF-18

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee), dated September 19, 2002, as supplemented by letter dated December 26, 2002, 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 enclosure to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C.(2) of the Facility Operating License No. NPF-11 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. 145, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

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

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA by LRaghavan for/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: February 4, 2003

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 159 AND 145

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-11 AND NPF-18

DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

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

Remove Pages
5.6-4

Insert Pages
5.6-4

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 159 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-11
AND AMENDMENT NO. 145 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-18
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC
LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated September 19, 2002, as supplemented by letter dated December 26, 2002, Exelon Generation Company (Exelon, the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2. The supplement dated December 26, 2002, provided additional information that clarified the application, did not expand the scope of the application as originally noticed, and did not change the staff's original proposed no significant hazards consideration determination as published in the *Federal Register* on October 15, 2002 (67 FR 63694).

The proposed change would add a new analytical method to TS Section 5.6.5, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)."

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) staff finds that the licensee in Section 4.0 of Attachment 2 of its September 19, 2002, submittal identified the applicable regulatory requirements. The regulatory requirements for which the staff based its acceptance are 10 CFR 50.36, "Technical specifications," which provide the regulatory requirements for the content required in a licensee's TS.

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

The staff has reviewed the licensee's regulatory and technical analyses in support of its proposed license amendment which are described in Sections 5.0 and 6.0 of Attachment 2 of the licensee's September 19, 2002, submittal. The detailed evaluation below will support the conclusion 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.

The licensee proposed to add an additional NRC approved document (EMF-2158(P)(A), "Evaluation and Validation of CASMO-4/MICROBURN-B2") to the list of approved analytical methods in TS 5.6.5.b.

The CASMO-4/MICROBURN-B2 code package includes both a lattice spectrum/depletion code (CASMO-4) and a steady-state reactor core simulator code (MICROBURN-B2). The licensee states in Reference 1 that the most significant improvements to the code package include: (1) the model for pin power reconstruction includes fuel pin axial neutron leakage effects to improve the accuracy of the pin peaking factor in the code nodes; and (2) the power distribution uncertainties and hot/cold eigenvalue uncertainties of CASMO-4/MICROBURN-B2 methods are improved relative to the earlier generation methods (CASMO-3G/MICROBURN-B) leading to increased accuracy in calculations and predictions. The licensee clarifies in Reference 2 that CASMO-4/MICROBURN-B2 will be used to support the calculation of the following cycle-specific parameters listed in TS 5.6.5.a: Average Planar Linear Heat Generation Rate (APLHGR); Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR); Linear Heat Generation Rate (LHGR); and Rod Block Monitor Upscale Instrumentation Setpoint.

The NRC staff concludes that the proposed TS revision is acceptable because the addition of an NRC approved methodology to TS 5.6.5.b used to determine cycle-specific core operating limits specified in TS 5.6.5.a is in compliance with the guidance specified in Generic Letter 88-16, "Removal of Cycle-Specific Parameter Limits from Technical Specifications," dated October 3, 1988. However, the licensee should update the supporting documents in TS 5.6.5.b in a timely manner to keep only those references used to determine the cycle-specific TS 5.6.5.a parameters documented in the COLR. References not being used for the current cycle and not likely to be used in the future for the COLR should be removed from the TS 5.6.5.b list.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Illinois 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 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 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 63694). Accordingly, the amendments meet 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 the amendments.

6.0 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.

7.0 REFERENCES

1. Letter from Keith R. Jury to NRC, "LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2 Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-11 and NPF-18: Request for Amendment to Technical Specification 5.6.5, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)," for Addition of New Analytical Methodology," dated September 19, 2002.
2. Letter from Keith R. Jury to NRC, Response to Request for Additional Information Addressing Request for Amendment to Technical Specification 5.6.5, "Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)," for Addition of New Analytical Methodology, dated December 26, 2002.

Principal Contributor: T. Huang

Date: February 4, 2003