March 24, 2004

Mr. Christopher M. Crane
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT CONCERNING ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCES (TAC NO. MB8481)

Dear Mr. Crane:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing the subject proposed amendment, requested by your application dated April 21, 2003, as supplemented by letter dated September 11, 2003. On March 11, 2004, we held a telephone conference with Mr. D. Robillard, et al., of your staff, on comments we previously e-mailed to your staff (available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under Accession No. ML040570479). During the telephone conference, the NRC staff determined that additional information is needed to complete its review of the subject application. Enclosed please find the NRC staff's request for additional information.

Your staff agreed that it can respond by March 31, 2004. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-1451.

Sincerely,

\RA

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

cc: See next page

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT RE: DC ELECTRICAL POWER SOURCES

References: AmerGen application for amendment dated April 21, 2003, as supplemented by letter dated September 11, 2003.

(1) The application stated that station batteries B and C each has two associated full-capacity chargers. One charger on each battery is in service at all times with the second charger available in the event of a charger failure.

a. Please explain the administrative control, if any, under which the plant operator would know which one of the two battery chargers is the one that is in service at all times to maintain the DC subsystem operable. Please provide information regarding AC power supply sources to the battery chargers during normal plant operation and during loss of offsite power sources.

b. When the charger described as "in service at all times" is declared "inoperable" and the "second charger" is switched in to substitute for the inoperable charger, what maintenance actions, if any, and within what time frame, will be initiated for the inoperable charger while the completion time specified by Specifications 3.7.D.1 and 3.7.D.2 is in effect? What were the causes and length of outage time for each of the battery chargers that had been declared inoperable in the past 3 years?

c. Please identify and justify compensatory measures that will be implemented during the proposed 7-day allowed outage time for one inoperable battery charger, and then two inoperable chargers for station batteries B and C. In your discussion, please explain the differences between a “functional” and an “inoperable” charger; these terms are currently included in your plant procedures.

(2) The application stated that each station battery has two associated full capacity chargers. For Modes 1, 2, and 3, one charger for each battery is in service and the other is kept as a "second charger."

a. Please define "full capacity charger," and state if each of the chargers was designed to be capable of handling transient loading demand requirements for all initiating events if the associated battery is out of service for any reason. This includes the adequacy of the battery charger to handle transient loading requirements caused by the re-alignment of the AC sources following a reactor trip including their design margins.

Enclosure

b. The application stated that the battery is estimated to be 98% charged when its stable charging current measurement is less than or equal to 2 amps for the station batteries. Assuming that the battery is 98% charged and the battery has reached 85% of its aging capacity some time after its previous discharge 24-month test cycle and before the next 24-month cycle test, please provide justification that the battery is still capable of handling transient loading demand requirements for all initiating events if both of the associated battery chargers are out-of-service for any reason during this time frame.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

cc:

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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

cc:

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