



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 23, 2009

LICENSEE: Exelon Generation Company, LLC.  
FACILITY: Clinton Power Station, Unit No. 1  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JUNE 2, 2009, CONFERENCE CALL WITH EXELON  
GENERATION COMPANY, LLC, ON THE COBALT ISOTOPE GENERATION  
PROJECT

On June 2, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Exelon Generation Company, LLC (EGC), held a conference call to give the licensee the opportunity to clarify the guidance provided by the NRC staff in its May 19, 2009, withdrawal acknowledgement letter (See the enclosure to Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML091280171). A list of call participants is provided in the Enclosure.

#### Background

By letter dated April 8, 2009, (ADAMS Accession No. ML090990454), EGC submitted a license amendment request for Clinton Power Station (CPS), Unit No.1 that would revise the CPS operating license and technical specifications to allow the intentional production of the isotope Cobalt (Co)-60 from Co-59 targets inserted into the reactor. By letter dated May 11, 2009, (ADAMS Accession No. ML091320432), Exelon requested the withdrawal of the application from the NRC staff's review. The NRC staff was in the process of completing its acceptance review when it received the licensee's request for withdrawal. The NRC staff noted in its withdrawal acknowledgement letter that its review identified areas where the application did not provide sufficient technical information to enable the staff to complete its detailed review. The letter included guidance to aid the licensee should they decide to resubmit the application.

#### Summary

Following introductions, EGC staff updated the call participants on the actions the licensee had taken since the withdrawal letter was submitted. The licensee informed the NRC staff that the technical evaluations needed to support a follow-up amendment were complete and the results were being incorporated into a new submittal. The licensee expects to send in the new submittal on or about June 26, 2009.

During the discussion of the current status of the project, the licensee and the NRC staff clarified several of the information items listed in the enclosure to the June 2, 2009, letter. The NRC staff also asked several questions about the pending licensing action, including to what extent were evaluations made under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.59, included as part of the project. The licensee responded that the scope of the amendment will cover most aspects of the project, with the exception of those portions not normally covered by the amendment process (e.g., procedure development). When questioned, the licensee also indicated that they plan to use an approved cask design to store and transport the byproduct material.

The licensee also indicated that they have alternative plans in place in the event the NRC staff does not accept the application, denies the application, or cannot complete the evaluation before the date when new fuel assemblies must be ordered, which is estimated to be August 20, 2009. In these instances, the license would order the production of new fuel assemblies to take the place of the assemblies containing the Co-59 targets. The NRC staff further clarified the LIC-109, "Acceptance Review Procedures," process is performed to ensure the application contains the technical information necessary for the NRC staff to perform its detailed review, but is not a determination of the application's acceptability. The licensee should not make any decisions about producing or not producing replacement fuel assemblies based on the results of the NRC acceptance review of the application.

The NRC staff also clarified that the project would not involve a new license under 10 CFR Part 30, "Rules of General Applicability to Domestic Licensing of Byproduct Material," to produce byproduct material, but noted that the licensee must fully describe in accordance with 10 CFR 50.90, "Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit," the changes planned for the operating license that would be necessary to authorize activities anticipated under this project.

The NRC emphasized with the licensee that, due to the short time allotted for review, the application needs to be complete and of very high quality as to minimize unnecessary questions between the staffs. The NRC staff also reminded the licensee that the responses to any request for additional information should be responded to expeditiously. The licensee stated that the General Electric Hitachi (GEH) Safety Analysis Report (SAR), Revision 0, will be complete and available to the NRC staff for audit by the time the application is ready for re-submittal, but that the Cycle 13 reload analysis and the GEH SAR Revision 1, which evaluates the impact of Co-60 production on the Cycle 13 core physics, in-core signals, and accident analyses, will not be completed until November 2009. The licensee took an action to verify that the calculations necessary to support the application would be available for NRC review in the Washington D.C. area.

Questions regarding this call should be referred to Christopher Gratton at 301-415-1055, or Christopher.Gratton@nrc.gov.



Christopher Gratton, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch III-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-461

Enclosure:  
List of Attendees

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

JUNE 2, 2009, MEETING WITH EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

CO-60 GENERATION PROJECT

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)

Christopher Gratton, DORL  
Stephen Sands, DORL  
Paul Clifford, DSS  
Aleem Boatright, DRA  
Steven Garry, DIRS  
Methew Panicker, DSS  
Anthony Mendiola, DSS  
Mark Blumberg, DRA

Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME)

Donna-Beth Howe, MSSA

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (EGC)

Mike Reitmeyer  
Jeff Hansen  
Tim Byam  
Doug Wise  
Chris Monetta  
Brad Bloomquist  
Lisa Schichlein  
Jim Harrison  
Mike Downs

Enclosure

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