

RS-11-170

October 20, 2011

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2
Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-11 and NPF-18
NRC Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

Subject: Completion of License Condition 2.C.(31) Associated with Unit 2 Spent Fuel Pool Storage Racks

- References:
1. Letter from P. R. Simpson (Exelon Generation Company, LLC) to U.S. NRC, "License Amendment Regarding the Use of Neutron Absorbing Inserts in Unit 2 Spent Fuel Pool Storage Racks," dated October 5, 2009
 2. Letter from E. A. Brown (U.S. NRC) to M. J. Pacilio (Exelon Nuclear), "LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, Issuance of Amendments Concerning Spent Fuel Neutron Absorbers (TAC Nos. ME2376 and ME2377) (RS-09-133)," dated January 28, 2011

In Reference 1, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (EGC) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-11 and NPF-18 for LaSalle County Station (LSCS), Units 1 and 2, respectively. The proposed change revised Technical Specifications (TS) Section 4.3.1, "Criticality," to address a non-conservative TS. Specifically, the proposed change addressed the BORAFLEX™ degradation issue in the Unit 2 spent fuel storage racks by revising TS Section 4.3.1 to allow the use of NETCO-SNAP-IN® rack inserts in Unit 2 spent fuel storage rack cells as a replacement for the neutron absorbing properties of the existing BORAFLEX™ panels.

The NRC approved EGC's license amendment request in Reference 2. However, in Reference 2, the NRC noted that concerns regarding the long-term crediting of BORAFLEX™ in the LSCS spent fuel pools (SFPs) have yet to be resolved. As such, Reference 2 included license conditions that establish a three-tiered SFP BORAFLEX™ credit configuration that is valid until October 28, 2011. After this date, credit for BORAFLEX™ is limited to a more restricted-tiered configuration until completion of the NETCO-SNAP-IN® insert campaign.

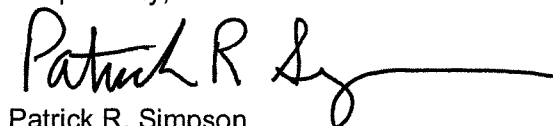
Specifically, Unit 2 license conditions 2.C.(30) and 2.C.(31) state:

- (30) Beginning 120 days after the LSCS Unit 2 refueling outage 13 (L2R13) and until October 28, 2011, the storage cells in the rack modules without NETCO-SNAP-IN[®] inserts will be placed into one of three categories: Unrestricted, Restricted and Unusable.
- (a) Unrestricted will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is greater than or equal to 0.0167 g/cm², Unrestricted cells may contain fuel assemblies up to the maximum reactivity identified in TS 4.3.1.1.d.
 - (b) Restricted will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is between 0.0167 g/cm² and 0.0115 g/cm². Restricted cells will only contain LSCS Units 1 and 2 Cycle 1 General Electric (GE) and GE14 fuel assemblies.
 - (c) Unusable will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is less than or equal to 0.0115 g/cm². Unusable cells will be administratively controlled to remain empty of any fuel assembly.
- (31) After October 28, 2011, for the storage cells in the rack modules without NETCO-SNAP-IN[®] inserts in the LSCS Unit 2 SFP, the following categories will apply: Unrestricted, Restricted, and Unusable.
- (a) Unrestricted will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is greater than or equal to 0.0200 g/cm², Unrestricted cells may contain fuel assemblies up to the maximum reactivity identified in TS 4.3.1.1.d.
 - (b) Restricted will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is between 0.0200 g/cm² and 0.0167 g/cm². Restricted cells will only contain LSCS Units 1 and 2 Cycle 1 GE and GE14 fuel assemblies.
 - (c) Unusable will be cells whose minimum panel B¹⁰ areal density is less than or equal to 0.0167 g/cm². Unusable cells will be administratively controlled to remain empty of any fuel assembly.

This letter is being submitted to document that the LSCS Unit 2 SFP has been reconfigured to comply with license condition 2.C.(31). The SFP reconfiguration was completed on October 18, 2011.

There are no regulatory commitments contained in this letter. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Thomas J. Griffith at (630) 657-2818.

Respectfully,



Patrick R. Simpson
Manager – Licensing

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cc: NRC Regional Administrator, Region III
NRC Senior Resident Inspector – LaSalle County Station
Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Division of Nuclear Safety