



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

May 29, 2012

Mr. Timothy S. Rausch
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Boulevard
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 –
ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: CHANGES TO
CYBER SECURITY IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE MILESTONES 3 AND 6
(TAC NOS. ME8521 AND ME8522)

Dear Mr. Rausch:

By letter dated April 30, 2012,¹ PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL) submitted a license amendment request for Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (SSES). The proposed amendment would make changes to the cyber security implementation schedule for milestone 3 and 6. Specifically, for milestone 3 PPL proposes to install a deterministic data diode appliance between Layers 3 and 2 instead of between Layers 3 and 4 with no change to the approved implementation date. For milestone 6, PPL proposes to implement the technical controls for critical digital assets (CDAs) by the approved implementation date, and to implement the operational and management controls for CDAs in conjunction with the full implementation of the Cyber Security Program. PPL describes the change to milestone 6 as a clarification to the implementation schedule. As was previously stated in security frequently asked question (SFAQ) Number 11-10,² the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) considers changes of this nature to be site-specific changes, rather than a clarification, and the proposed change to milestone 6 will be reviewed as such.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of NRC staff's acceptance review of this request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* (10 CFR), Part 50, Section 50.90 amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

¹ Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12122A011

² SFAQ Number 11-10, dated March 21, 2012, is exempt from public disclosure in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation*, Part 2, Section 2.390.

T. Rausch

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The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment and exemption in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1603.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carleen J. Sanders for". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carleen J. Sanders, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

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T. Rausch

- 2 -

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment and exemption in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1603.

Sincerely,

/RA by Jeffrey A. Whited for/

Carleen J. Sanders, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

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