



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

November 16, 2015

Mr. Bryan C. Hanson
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - RELAXATION OF THE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDER EA-13-109: ORDER MODIFYING LICENSES WITH REGARD TO RELIABLE HARDENED CONTAINMENT VENTS CAPABLE OF OPERATION UNDER SEVERE ACCIDENT CONDITIONS (TAC NO. MF4352)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is responding to the request from Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon, the licensee), for relaxation from the schedule requirements of NRC Order EA-13-109 for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). The NRC staff has determined that good cause exists for the schedule relaxation and has granted the request as described below.

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A694), the NRC issued Order EA-12-050 to All Operating Boiling-Water Reactor Licensees with Mark I and Mark II Containments. The order, in part, required licensees to install a reliable hardened containment vent system. By letter dated June 6, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13143A334), the NRC superseded the requirements of Order EA-12-050, with Order EA-13-109, "Issuance of Order to Modify Licenses with Regard to Reliable Hardened Containment Vents Capable of Operation Under Severe Accident Conditions."

Section IV of Order EA-13-109 states that licensees proposing to deviate from requirements of the order may request that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, relax or rescind certain requirements. By letter dated June 2, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14153A421), as supplemented by letters dated, September 26, 2014, November 25, 2014 and September 30, 2015 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML14272A323, ML14329A263 and ML15274A010, respectively), Exelon requested an extension of the final compliance dates of Order EA-13-109. Specifically, the licensee requested an extension to comply with the requirements in Section IV of NRC Order EA-13-109 concerning implementation of the Phase 1 (wetwell vent) and Phase 2 (drywell vent) at OCNGS until January 31, 2020. Exelon's letter dated June 2, 2014, states that, based on the timelines contained in Order EA-13-109, OCNGS is required to be in compliance with Phase 1 (severe accident capable wetwell venting system) by fall 2016, and Phase 2 (severe accident capable drywell venting system) by fall 2018.

By letter dated January 7, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML110070507), the licensee notified the NRC of Exelon's intent to permanently shut down OCNCS and cease operation no later than December 31, 2019. The licensee's extension request dated June 2, 2014, also stated that Exelon will submit a request for relief from NRC Order EA-13-109 no later than January 31, 2020, based on the shutdown condition of the plant at that time.

In the supplement dated November 25, 2014, Exelon stated that plant modifications to the installed hardened containment vent system (HCVS) and associated procedural changes are currently being designed to provide compensatory measures during the requested schedule relaxation for Phase 1 order requirements. These modifications are scheduled to be installed by the completion of the OCNCS fall 2016 refueling outage. Specifically, the modifications and procedural changes will enhance the capability of the Torus HCVS during Extended Loss of alternating current (ac) Power (ELAP) conditions by providing a supplemental compressed gas connection to the Torus HCVS isolation valves. The location of the new connection points will be protected from applicable severe external events. This modification will provide a means of operating Torus HCVS isolation valve control solenoids from a remote location outside of containment during a total loss of station ac, direct current (dc) and normal control air supply.

In light of the facts presented in the licensee's June 2, 2014, September 26, 2014, November 25, 2014 and September 30, 2015, letters, the NRC staff has determined that the licensee has presented good cause for a relaxation of the order implementation date for Phase I implementation of Order EA-13-109. Given the implementation of the compensatory measures, as discussed above and detailed in the licensee's supplements, the requested schedule relaxation until January 31, 2020, is consistent with the Phase 1 requirements of NRC Order EA-13-109. The NRC staff approves the relaxation of the order implementation date for EA-13-109, Phase 1, requirements only. The NRC staff will continue to review the licensee's request for schedule relaxation of EA-13-109 Phase 2 requirements.

Accordingly, based upon the authority granted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the requirement of the order for full implementation of Order EA-13-109, Phase 1 requirements for OCNCS is relaxed until January 31, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hughey at 301-415-3204.

Sincerely,



William M. Dean, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

cc: Listserv

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/RA/

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