



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

March 16, 2017

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

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY PLAN CHANGES TO REVISE THE ON-SHIFT STAFFING AND THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION STAFFING FOR A PERMANENTLY DEFUELED CONDITION (CAC NO. MF9352)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

By letter dated January 7, 2011 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML110070507), Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon or the licensee) submitted its Notification of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations for Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). In this letter, Exelon provided notification to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to permanently cease power operation no later than December 31, 2019.

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Section 54(q)(4) states:

The changes to a licensee's emergency plan that reduce the effectiveness of the plan as defined in paragraph (q)(1)(iv) of this section may not be implemented without prior approval by the NRC. A licensee desiring to make such a change after February 21, 2012 shall submit an application for an amendment to its license. In addition to the filing requirements of §§ 50.90 and 50.91, the request must include all emergency plan pages affected by that change and must be accompanied by a forwarding letter identifying the change, the reason for the change, and the basis for concluding that the licensee's emergency plan, as revised, will continue to meet the requirements in appendix E to this part and, for nuclear power reactor licensees, the planning standards of § 50.47(b).

By letter dated February 28, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17060A289), Exelon submitted a license amendment request for OCNGS. The proposed amendment would revise the site emergency plan to revise the on-shift staffing and the emergency response organization staffing for a permanently defueled condition. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this amendment 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 10 CFR 50.90, an 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.

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 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. If additional information is needed, you will be advised of any further information needed by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 370 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months, which is February 2018. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3100 or via e-mail at John.Lamb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager
Special Projects and Process Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

cc: Listserv

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