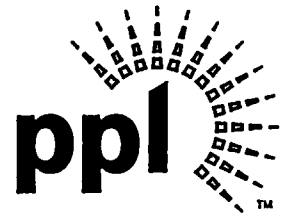


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JUN 23 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
REVISED PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 221 TO
LICENSE NPF-14 AND NO. 186 TO LICENSE NPF-22:
FINAL RESPONSE TO GL 94-02:
LONG-TERM STABILITY SOLUTION
PLA-5044**

Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388

- References:*
- 1) PLA-4925, R.G. Byram to USNRC, "Proposed Amendment No. 221 to License NPF-14: Final Response to GL 94-02: Long Term Stability Solution," dated 6/19/98.
 - 2) PLA-4956, R.G. Byram to USNRC, "Proposed Amendment No. 186 to License NPF-22: Final Response to GL 94-02: Long Term Stability Solution," dated 8/5/98.
 - 3) PLA-4990, R.G. Byram to USNRC, "Revised Proposed Amendment 221 to License NPF-14 & Amendment 186 to License NPF-22: Final Response to GL 94-02: Long Term Stability Solution," dated 11/23/98.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a revised implementation date for the proposed amendments to the SSES Unit 1 and 2 Technical Specifications [References 1, 2 and 3] that implement the Final Response to GL 94-02: Long Term Stability Solution. The need for this change was discussed in a telecon with the NRC Senior Project Manager on June 7, 1999.

The proposed Technical Specification changes incorporate the long term SSES stability solution into SSES Technical Specifications. The proposed changes to the Technical Specifications include a new Section 3.3.1.3 to be entitled "Oscillation Power Range Monitoring (OPRM) Instrumentation" and revisions to 3.4.1 "Recirculation Loops Operating" to remove the specifications related to current stability specifications which will no longer be required.

Presently, SSES is operating under Interim Corrective Actions (ICAs) defined in Technical Specification Section 3.4.1 that define restrictions to plant operation and define operator response to instability events. These actions are the interim actions accepted by the NRC for core protection until a permanent protection system is installed. The subject proposed changes implement the permanent protection system.

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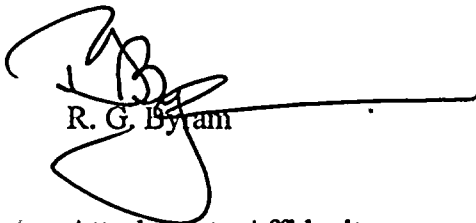
The OPRM instrumentation system is responsible for suppression of reactor power oscillations in accordance with General Design Criteria 10 and 12. The system to be installed in SSES Units 1 and 2 also provides a fiber optic data link to the plant process computer. This isolated data link provides a qualified isolation barrier between the Power Range Neutron Monitoring System, featuring the OPRM, the Average Power Range Monitor (APRM), the Local Power Range Monitors (LPRMs), and the non-safety related plant process computer. These functions use the plant computer to provide core power and flux operating data to the plant operator. The plant computer also provides APRM and LPRM data to the core monitoring computer. As such, the OPRM fiber optic data stream is a critical function for the continued reliable operation of each SSES Unit.

Recent system testing identified potential weaknesses in the reliability of this data link, such that OPRM system adjustments by the manufacturer may be necessary. These adjustments affect only the performance of the non-safety related plant computer data link, and will not affect the OPRM system function, nor any aspect of the system safety function described in the references.

PP&L requests that approval of the Technical Specification change request for implementation of the OPRM function be conditioned for both Unit 1 and Unit 2 to become effective no later than 30 days after startup from the SSES Unit 1 11 RIO currently scheduled for the spring of 2000. This will allow for the necessary adjustments by the OPRM manufacturer, pre-installation testing and calibration by PP&L and a reasonable period of operation in order to monitor the system's final readiness to perform these functions.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. M. H. Crowthers at (610) 774-7766.

Sincerely,



R. G. Byram

Attachment: Affidavit

copy: NRC Region I
Mr. S. L. Hansell, NRC Acting Resident Inspector
Mr. V. Nerses, NRC Sr. Project Manager
Mr. D. J. Allard, Pennsylvania DEP/BRP

