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JAN 29 1999

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
REQUEST TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE SSES
FEDERALLY OBSERVED EMERGENCY EXERCISE
PLA-5022**

Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.12, this letter requests exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c regarding conduct of a full participation exercise of the onsite and offsite emergency plans every two years. Specifically, it is requested that PP&L, Inc. (PP&L) be allowed to reschedule its federally observed full participation emergency exercise for Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) from the week of November 15, 1999 to the week of October 31, 2000.

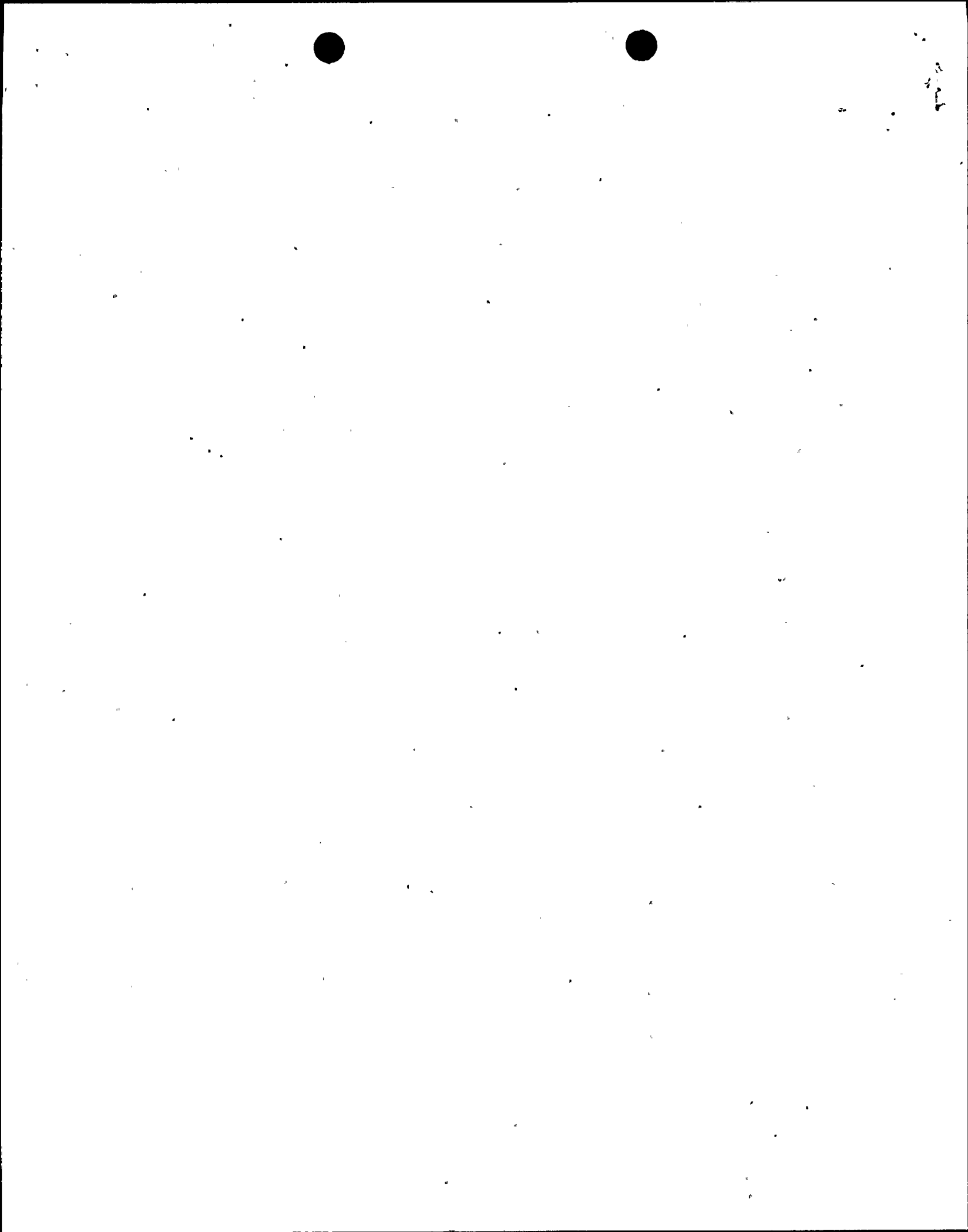
Reason for the Exemption Request

PP&L requests this exemption for the following reasons:

- PP&L has received information from FEMA, Region III, that they have schedule conflicts during the week of November 15, 1999 which preclude their participation in the SSES full participation emergency exercise. Based upon these conflicts, FEMA has asked that the full participation exercise be rescheduled.
- In subsequent discussions with the NRC staff (NRR and Region I), they indicated concurrence with the rescheduling and asked that the rescheduled date be in the year 2000 to relieve resource demands on their staffs.
- The last full participation federally observed emergency exercise for SSES was conducted in October 1997. Since the requested action would result in exceeding the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c to conduct a full participation exercise of both the onsite and offsite emergency plans every two years, an exemption from the requirements is requested.

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Basis for this Exemption Request

10 CFR 50.12 authorizes the Commission to grant exemptions from requirements of the regulations when special circumstances are present. Section (a) (2) (v) of 10CFR 50.12 states "special circumstance are present whenever ... The exemption would provide only temporary relief from the applicable regulation and the licensee or applicant has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation". 10 CFR 50, Appendix E, Items IV.F.2.b and c require that all licensees conduct full participation emergency plan exercises of onsite and offsite emergency plans every two years. The requested exemption provides only temporary relief from these requirements. Further, the exemption is being requested to reconcile the resource constraints of FEMA and the NRC. PP&L has made good faith efforts to comply with the regulation and would be prepared to conduct the exercise as scheduled. Granting of this exemption will not reduce the effectiveness of the existing emergency plans for SSES as PP&L will:

- Continue to maintain the SSES Emergency Plan;
- Conduct emergency plan training for both our own personnel and the personnel of agencies having emergency responsibilities within the SSES EPZ;
- Conduct emergency plan practice exercises with support counties and municipalities;
- Conduct health physics drills in 1999 and 2000 consistent with our commitments to NUREG 0654.

Supplemental Information

This exemption request has been discussed with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the affected local governmental agencies and they have raised no objections to this request.

Should this request be granted, state and local governments will require relief from the requirements of 44 CFR 350.9 (c) (1)-(4) from FEMA. PP&L will notify each affected governmental agency should the exemption be granted.

Should you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. W. W. Williams at (610) 774-7742.

Sincerely,


R. G. Byram

copy:

NRC Region I
FEMA Region III
Mr. S. L. Hansell, NRC Acting Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. V. Nerses, NRC Sr. Project Manager

Robert G. Byram

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October 21, 1999

The \$15,252.00 paid to date for the Part 50 approval of the January 29, 1999, exemption request is being refunded. You should receive the refund in approximately 30 days from the date of the letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Poteat of my staff at 301-415-6392.

Sincerely,

~~Original signed by Jesse Funches~~

Jesse L. Funches
Chief Financial Officer

Docket 50-387/388

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