

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPECO ENERGY COMPANYPUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANYDELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-277 AND 50-278PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-44 and DPR-56, issued to the PECO Energy Company (PECO, the licensee), for operation of the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (Peach Bottom, PBAPS), located in York County, Pennsylvania.

The proposed amendment would revise the ventilation filter test program (VFTP) bypass and penetration leakage test acceptance criteria from less than 0.05 percent to less than 1.0 percent. The change corrects an administrative error that occurred during the development of the Peach Bottom Improved Technical Specifications which were issued as Amendments 210 and 214 to the Peach Bottom licenses on August 30, 1995.

The amendment is being proposed on an exigent basis in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6). On December 11, 1995, the licensee determined that a change

to the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Improved Technical Specifications, issued by Amendments 210 and 214 to the Unit 2 and Unit 3 licenses, respectively, was required. An administrative error contained in the Improved Technical Specification VFTP would result in the Engineered Safety Feature (ESF) filter ventilation systems being declared inoperable upon implementation of Improved Technical Specifications. Implementation of the Improved Technical Specifications is scheduled for January 11, 1996. Because these ESF filter ventilation systems are common to both Units and because the ESF filter ventilation systems cannot be maintained operable in accordance with the administrative error in the VFTP, a shutdown of both Units would be required. Therefore, the licensee has requested approval of the proposed amendment in advance of the implementation of the Improved Technical Specifications in order to eliminate the unnecessary hardship associated with shutting down both units.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a

significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

- 1) The proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because the changes are purely administrative and do not involve any physical changes to plant SSC [systems, structures and components]. These proposed changes do not impact initiators of analyzed events, and will not increase the probability of occurrence of an accident previously evaluated. These proposed changes do not impact the assumed mitigation of accidents or transient events. Therefore, these changes will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.
- 2) The proposed changes do not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated because the changes will not involve a physical alteration of the plant (no new or different type of equipment will be installed) or changes in methods governing normal plant operation. The changes do not allow plant operation in any mode that is not already evaluated in the safety analysis. Therefore, these changes will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.
- 3) The proposed changes do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety because they are purely administrative and will not involve any technical changes. Generic Letter 83-13 (GL 83-13), "Clarification of Surveillance Requirements for HEPA [high efficiency particulate air] Filters and Charcoal Adsorber Units in Standard Technical Specifications on ESF Cleanup Systems," was reviewed for guidance. GL 83-13 based in-place penetration and bypass leakage testing acceptance criteria in part on the NRC staff assumptions used in its safety evaluation reports (SERs) for the ESF atmospheric cleanup systems. GL 83-13 stated, "0.05% value applicable when a HEPA filter or charcoal adsorber efficiency of 99% is assumed, or 1% when a HEPA filter or charcoal adsorber efficiency of 95% or less is assumed in the NRC staff's safety evaluation." In the original SER for PBAPS dated August 11, 1972, the NRC staff assumed a 90% halogen removal efficiency for the elemental and particulate forms of iodine, and 70% for the organic forms of iodine in the HEPA filters and charcoal adsorbers of the Standby Gas Treatment System (SGTS). The SER for Amendments 10/7 dated June 25, 1975 was issued to resolve an issue raised by a December 10, 1974, letter from the NRC proposing model TS [technical specifications] for PBAPS Control Room Air Treatment Systems and SGTS. The June 25, 1975, SER documented the acceptability of values of less than 1%

penetration and bypass leakage which is still in place in the existing TS Bases. No SERs assumed HEPA filter or charcoal adsorber efficiency of 99%. Therefore, GL 83-13 recommends acceptance of less than 1% penetration and bypass leakage. Therefore, maintaining the current requirements for penetration and bypass leakage does not involve a reduction in the margin of safety. Also, because the change is administrative in nature, no question of safety is involved. Therefore, the change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 15 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 15-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 15-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By January 26, 1996 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (REGIONAL DEPOSITORY) Education Building, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105. If a request for a hearing or petition

for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of

a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If the amendment is issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment

and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to John F. Stolz, Director, Project Directorate I-2: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to J. W. Durham, Sr., Esquire, Sr. V.P. and General Counsel, PECO Energy Company, 2301 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101, attorney for the licensee.

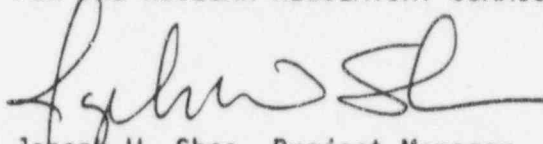
Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be

entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated December 19, 1995, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room, located at the Government Publications Section, State Library of Pennsylvania, (REGIONAL DEPOSITORY) Education Building, Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue, Box 1601, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of December, 1995

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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