

**North
Atlantic**

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The Northeast Utilities System

November 4, 1998

Docket No. 50-443

NYN-98128

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Seabrook Station
License Amendment Request 98-17,
"Change to Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.5.2b.1,
Verification of ECCS Piping is Full of Water"

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) has enclosed herein License Amendment Request (LAR) 98-17. LAR 98-17 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10CFR50.90 and 10CFR50.4.

LAR 98-17 proposes a change to the Seabrook Station Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.5.2b.1 to remove the prescriptive requirements of using the venting process as the sole means to verify that the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) piping is full of water. Removal of the prescriptive requirements will provide North Atlantic operational flexibility and will allow the use of alternative techniques to verify the ECCS piping is full of water. In addition, the Bases associated with TS 3/4.5.2 will be expanded to reflect the intent of the surveillance requirement.

The proposed change is similar to SR 3.5.2.3 and its associated Bases contained in NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications - Westinghouse Plants," Rev. 1, April 1995. In addition, the proposed change is based on License Amendments for Commonwealth Edison Company's Byron Station Units 1 & 2 and Braidwood Station Units 1 & 2, that were approved by the NRC Staff as License Amendments 79 and 71, on February 16, 1996.

LAR 98-17 has been reviewed and approved by the Station Operation Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Audit Review Committee. As discussed in the enclosed LAR Section IV, the proposed change does not involve a significant hazard consideration pursuant to 10CFR50.92. A

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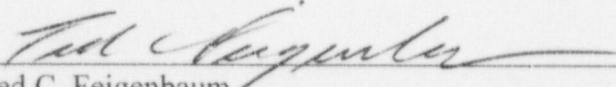
copy of this letter and the enclosed LAR have been forwarded to the New Hampshire State Liaison Officer pursuant to 10CFR50.91(b). North Atlantic requests NRC review of LAR 98-17 and issuance of a license amendment by February 26, 1999 (see Section V enclosed).

North Atlantic has determined that LAR 98-17 meets the criteria of 10CFR51.22(c)(9) for a categorical exclusion from the requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (see Section VI enclosed).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Terry L. Harpster, Director of Licensing Services, at (603) 773-7765.

Very truly yours,

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORP.



Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer

cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
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ENCLOSURE TO NYN-98128