

**North
Atlantic**

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874
(603) 474-9521

The Northeast Utilities System

November 2, 1999

Docket No. 50-443

NYN-99101

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

Seabrook Station
License Amendment Request 99-02,
"Operation with Relaxed Axial Offset Control and
Continued Use of the Fixed Incore Detector System"

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) has enclosed herein License Amendment Request (LAR) 99-02. LAR 99-02 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10CFR50.90 and 10CFR50.4.

LAR 99-02 proposes changes to the Seabrook Station Technical Specifications (TS) to implement the Relaxed Axial Offset Control (RAOC) strategy. The RAOC TS, developed by Westinghouse, has been previously reviewed and approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Reference [1]. In addition, current Technical Specifications allow use of the Fixed Incore Detector System (FIDS) for monitoring incore power distributions, therefore, the RAOC TS proposed for incorporation into the Seabrook Station Technical Specifications includes adjustments to allow the continued use of the FIDS, when operable, for monitoring incore power distributions and assuring compliance with the cycle-specific Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCOs) specified in the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR).

The proposed changes are in support of North Atlantic's long-term operating strategy to refuel and operate, commencing with Cycle 8, with upgraded Westinghouse fuel with Intermediate Flow Mixers (VANTAGE+ (w/ IFMs)). Use of these fuel features has been previously approved, Reference [2], by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Westinghouse and Duke Engineering & Services (DE&S) are jointly performing safety evaluations/analyses, using current methodologies, to confirm acceptable use of these features with RAOC for 4-loop operation prior to Cycle 8 operation. The safety analysis methodologies employed by Westinghouse and DE&S have been previously reviewed and approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The joint effort will also provide appropriate cycle-specific Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCOs) consistent with RAOC for use in the COLR.

[1] WCAP-10216-P-A, Revision 1A (Proprietary), Relaxation of Constant Axial Offset Control F_Q Surveillance Technical Specification, February 1994.

[2] Davidson, S. L. (Ed.), et al., VANTAGE 5 Fuel Assembly Reference Core Report, WCAP-10444-P-A and Appendix A, September 1985; Addendum 1-A, March 1986; Addendum 2-A, April 1988.

ADD1

Other TS changes are proposed to incorporate additional improvements to the current Power Distribution Limits Technical Specifications, resulting from review of similar TSs contained within NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications – Westinghouse Plants."

LAR 99-02 has been reviewed and approved by the Station Operation Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Audit Review Committee.

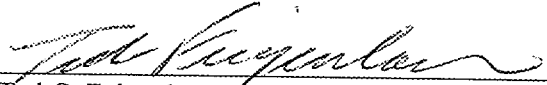
As discussed in the enclosed LAR Section IV, the proposed change does not involve a significant hazard consideration pursuant to 10 CFR 50.92. A copy of this letter and the enclosed LAR have been forwarded to the New Hampshire State Liaison Officer pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(b). North Atlantic requests NRC Staff review of LAR 99-02 and issuance of a license amendment by May 1, 2000 (see Section V enclosed).

North Atlantic has determined that LAR 99-02 meets the criteria of 10 CFR 51.22(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. James M. Peschel - Regulatory Compliance Manager, at (603) 773-7194.

Very truly yours,

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORP.



Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer

Enclosure

cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
J. T. Harrison, NRC Project Manager, Project Directorate 1-2
R. K. Lorson, NRC Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. Woodbury P. Fogg, P.E., Director
New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management
State Office Park South
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301