

50-443



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 10, 1999

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
c/o Mr. James M. Peschel
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION REGARDING MERGER OF NEW
ENGLAND ELECTRIC SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL GRID GROUP PLC
(TAC NO. MA5072)

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

The enclosed Order is in response to the application transmitted by New England Power Company (NEP) under cover of a letter dated March 15, 1999, as supplemented May 20 and June 17, 1999. The application, pursuant to Section 50.80 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, requested approval of the indirect transfer of Operating License NPF-86 for Seabrook Station, Unit 1, to the extent held by NEP, which would result from the proposed merger of New England Electric System, NEP's parent company, and the National Grid Group plc.

Notice of the application for approval and an opportunity for a hearing was published in the Federal Register on June 30, 1999 (64 FR 35190). In response to the notice, joint Seabrook owners Connecticut Light and Power Company and North Atlantic Energy Corporation filed a timely intervention petition and hearing request. The Commission found that the petitioners had demonstrated standing and proffered two admissible issues (regarding foreign ownership and financial qualifications). The case was set for hearing. Subsequently, on November 4, 1999, the petitioners filed a notice of withdrawal, and the petitioners and the applicants jointly asked that the proceeding be terminated due to the settlement they had reached. The Commission granted the motion on November 19, 1999. In doing so, it noted that the staff, in its review of transfer applications, examines financial qualifications and foreign ownership issues, and instructed the staff to consider concerns specifically raised in the petition relating to those matters when it takes action on the transfer application. The staff has considered these concerns, which are addressed in the enclosed safety evaluation.

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The enclosed Order gives consent to the proposed indirect transfer, subject to the conditions described therein. The Order has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

John A. Nakoski, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
 Project Directorate I
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

Enclosures: 1. Order
 2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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T. Feigenbaum

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