NRC Issues Subsequent Renewed Licenses for Peach Bottom Reactors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has approved Exelon Generation Company’s application for an additional 20 years of operation for Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Units 2 and 3, located near Delta, Pa. These renewed licenses authorize reactor operation from 60 to 80 years.

The Peach Bottom Unit 2 subsequent renewed license expires on Aug. 8, 2053. The Unit 3 subsequent renewed license expires on July 2, 2054. The rationale for the NRC’s decision is documented in the staff’s February 2020 final Safety Evaluation Report on the application, as well as the staff’s January 2020 final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The NRC’s Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards also reviewed the safety aspects of renewing the licenses.

The NRC’s Atomic Safety and Licensing Board terminated the adjudicatory proceeding regarding the application in June 2019 and concluded that no contested matters remained before it for resolution. The Board’s decision has been appealed to the Commission. The NRC staff has determined that issuing the subsequent renewed licenses before the Commission acts on the appeals would not foreclose or prejudice any action by the Commission.

Exelon submitted the Peach Bottom subsequent license renewal application on July 10, 2018. The application, excluding proprietary details, is available on the NRC website. The subsequent license renewal process determines whether an operating reactor can safely extend its license for an additional 20 years (from 60 to 80 years of operation).