

April 2, 2001

Mr. Harold W. Keiser  
Chief Nuclear Officer & President  
PSEG Nuclear LLC - X04  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, ISSUANCE OF  
AMENDMENT RE: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS SECTION 3/4.8.1, "A.C.  
SOURCES" (TAC NOS. MA9108 AND MA9109)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 242 and 223 to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75 for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. These amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated May 15, 2000, as supplemented on August 25, 2000.

These amendments revise the requirements to test the remaining diesel generators (DGs) when one of the two independent offsite power sources is inoperable, as described in Section 3/4.8.1, Action a, and when a diesel generator is inoperable for other than preventive maintenance reasons, as described in Section 3/4.8.1, Action b, of the TSs. The amendments also expand the DG loading band from existing 2500 – 2600 KW to 2330 – 2600 KW for the monthly, 6-month, and the 2-hour loaded prerequisite for the hot restart tests, and correct an administrative oversight.

A copy of our safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 242 to  
License No. DPR-70  
2. Amendment No. 223 to  
License No. DPR-75  
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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ACCESSION NUMBER: ML010580304

\* SE Input provided. No major changes made.

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PSEG NUCLEAR LLC  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY  
DOCKET NO. 50-272  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1  
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 242  
License No. DPR-70

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment filed by the PSEG Nuclear LLC, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) dated May 15, 2000, as supplemented on August 25, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
  - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
  - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-70 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 242, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**/RA/**

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: April 2, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 242

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-70

DOCKET NO. 50-272

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached revised pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove Pages

3/4 8-1  
3/4 8-3  
3/4 8-5  
3/4 8-5c

Insert Pages

3/4 8-1  
3/4 8-3  
3/4 8-5  
3/4 8-5c

PSEG NUCLEAR LLC  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY  
DOCKET NO. 50-311  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2  
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 223  
License No. DPR-75

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment filed by the PSEG Nuclear LLC, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) dated May 15, 2000, as supplemented on August 25, 2000, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
  - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
  - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-75 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 223, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**/RA/**

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: April 2, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 223

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-75

DOCKET NO. 50-311

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A, Technical Specifications, with the attached revised pages as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove Pages

3/4 8-1  
3/4 8-3  
3/4 8-5  
3/4 8-7a

Insert Pages

3/4 8-1  
3/4 8-3  
3/4 8-5  
3/4 8-7a

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 242 AND 223 TO FACILITY OPERATING  
LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75  
PSEG NUCLEAR LLC  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 15, 2000, as supplemented on August 25, 2000, PSEG Nuclear LLC (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Salem Nuclear Generating Station (Salem), Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The requested changes would revise the requirements to test the remaining diesel generators (DGs) when one of the two independent offsite power sources is inoperable, as described in Section 3/4.8.1, Action a, and when a DG is inoperable for other than preventive maintenance reasons, as described in Section 3/4.8.1, Action b, of the TSs. These proposed revisions are consistent with Generic Letter (GL) 93-05, "Line-Item Technical Specification Improvements To Reduce Surveillance For Testing During Power Operation," recommendations, as well as the DG start reduction goals of GL 84-15, "Proposed Staff Actions To Improve and Maintain Diesel Generator Reliability."

The amendment would also expand the DG loading band from existing 2500 – 2600 KW to 2330 – 2600 KW for the monthly, 6-month, and the 2-hour loaded prerequisite for the hot restart tests, and correct an administrative oversight associated with changes made to the TSs by way of License Amendments 229 and 210 for Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. The proposed DG loading band is consistent with the guidance of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.9, "Selection, Design, Qualification, and Testing of Emergency Diesel Generator Units Used as Class 1E Onsite Electric Power Systems at Nuclear Power Plants," Rev. 3, 1993.

The August 25, 2000, letter provided clarifying information that did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination or expand the scope of the application.

In addition, on August 21, 2000, the licenses for Salem, to the extent held by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), were transferred to PSEG Nuclear LLC. In a letter dated September 6, 2000, PSEG Nuclear stated that it has assumed responsibility, as of the date of

the transfer, for the active items on the Salem dockets previously submitted by PSE&G, including the subject amendment requests.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

The standby A.C. power source for the Salem units consists of three automatically starting DGs per unit. Each set of DGs supplies power to one 4160-V vital bus (A, B, or C) in the event of a loss of offsite power. Any two of the three DGs and their associated vital buses can supply sufficient power for operation of the required safeguard equipment for a design basis loss of coolant accident (LOCA) coincident with loss of offsite power. The DGs are located in the auxiliary building at an elevation of 100 feet. Within the building the DGs are isolated from each other and from other equipment in the area by firewalls and fire doors. An automatic fire suppression system is installed.

In an August 17, 2000, telephone conference, the licensee and the NRC staff discussed the proposed DG loading band expansion. Based on this discussion, the licensee revised its DG loading band from 2330 – 2600 KW to 2340 – 2600 KW in a supplement dated August 25, 2000.

## 3.0 EVALUATION

### 3.1 TS Section 3/4.8.1, A.C. Sources, TS Actions

At present, Salem TS 3.8.1.1, Action a, reads:

With an independent A.C. circuit of the above required A.C. electrical power sources inoperable, demonstrate the OPERABILITY of the remaining independent A.C. circuit by performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.1.a, within one hour and at least once per 8 hours thereafter; and demonstrate OPERABILITY of three diesel generators by performing Surveillance Requirements 4.8.1.1.2.a.2 within 24 hours; restore the inoperable independent A.C. circuit to OPERABLE status within 72 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

The licensee has proposed the following revision to Action a:

With an independent A.C. circuit of the above required A.C. electrical power sources inoperable, demonstrate the OPERABILITY of the remaining independent A.C. circuit by performing Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.1.a, within one hour and at least once per 8 hours thereafter; restore the inoperable independent A.C. circuit to OPERABLE status within 72 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

In addition, TS Section 3.8.1.1, Action b, currently reads:

With one diesel generator of the above required A.C. electrical power sources inoperable, demonstrate the OPERABILITY of the independent A.C. circuits by performing Surveillance Requirements 4.8.1.1.1.a, within 1 hour and at least once per 8 hours thereafter. If the diesel generator is inoperable for preventive maintenance, the two remaining OPERABLE diesel generators need not be tested. If the diesel generator is inoperable for any reason other than preventive maintenance, demonstrate the OPERABILITY of the remaining diesel generators by performing Surveillance Requirements 4.8.1.1.2.a.2 within 24 hours. In any case, restore the inoperable diesel generator to OPERABLE status within 72 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

The licensee has proposed the following revision to Action b:

With one diesel generator of the above required A.C. electrical power sources inoperable, demonstrate the OPERABILITY of the independent A.C. circuits by performing Surveillance Requirements 4.8.1.1.1.a, within 1 hour and at least once per 8 hours thereafter. Determine the two remaining OPERABLE diesel generators are not inoperable due to a common cause failure or perform Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.a.2 within 24 hours. If the diesel generator is inoperable for preventive maintenance, the two remaining OPERABLE diesel generators need not be tested nor the OPERABILITY evaluated. In any case, restore the inoperable diesel generator to OPERABLE status within 72 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

The licensee stated that eliminating unnecessary DG starts will improve the overall reliability of emergency onsite power supplies by:

1. Reducing the overall engine degradation resulting from wear and tear of testing and reducing the probability of failure due to engine degradation; and
2. Minimizing the number of entries into an equipment configuration where a potential challenge to the safety function exists during the period of the tests.

Whenever a single offsite power source is inoperable, the operability of the remaining offsite power source is established by performing surveillance requirement (SR) 4.8.1.1.1.1.a. This normally performed monthly surveillance ensures that the DG will be available to perform its safety function.

The proposed revision of TS 3.8.1.1, Action b, calls for an evaluation to demonstrate that the operable DGs are not potentially inoperable because of a common-cause failure. If the evaluation concludes that the operable DGs are not potentially inoperable because of a common-cause failure, the operable DGs need not be tested in accordance with SR 4.8.1.1.2.a.2. If the evaluation is inconclusive or demonstrates that they are susceptible to a potential common-mode failure, the licensee must perform SR 4.8.1.1.2.a.2. within 24 hours.

In addition, to maintain the reliability of DGs, the licensee has implemented a formal program, as required by Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.65,

"Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (the Maintenance Rule). The program establishes performance goals and generates system status reports that can be used to evaluate instances of system inoperability and to determine if there is a potential common-mode failure issue.

This revision is consistent with the recommendations in GL 93-05 and the DG start reduction goals of GL 84-15.

On the basis of its review, the NRC staff finds that the revision will reduce the burden of unnecessarily testing the DG, and, more importantly, will minimize unnecessary wear and stress and starting challenges of the DGs. The proposed changes are consistent with General Design Criterion (GDC) 17, 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of All Alternating Current Power," and the improved standard TSs. Therefore, the staff finds that the proposed revisions are acceptable.

### 3.2 TS Section 3/4.8.1, A.C. Sources, TS Surveillance Requirements

TS Section 4.8.1.1.2.a.2 currently reads, in part:

....Subsequently, verifying the generator is synchronized with voltage maintained  $\geq 3910$  volts and  $\leq 4580$  volts, gradually loaded to 2500 - 2600 KW \*\*, and operates at a load of 2500 - 2600 KW\*\* for greater than or equal to 60 minutes.

The license has proposed the following revision to TS 4.8.1.1.2.a.2:

....Subsequently, verifying the generator is synchronized with voltage maintained  $\geq 3910$  volts and  $\leq 4580$  volts, gradually loaded to 2340 - 2600 KW \*\*, and operates at a load of 2340 - 2600 KW\*\* for greater than or equal to 60 minutes.

In addition, TS Section 4.8.1.1.2.c currently reads, in part:

....The generator shall be synchronized to its emergency bus with voltage maintained  $\geq 3910$  volts and  $\leq 4580$  volts, loaded to 2500 - 2600 KW \*\* in less than or equal to 60 seconds, and operates at a load of 2500 - 2600 KW\*\* for at least 60 minutes.

The license has proposed the following revision to TS 4.8.1.1.2.c:

....The generator shall be synchronized to its emergency bus with voltage maintained  $\geq 3910$  volts and  $\leq 4580$  volts, loaded to 2340 - 2600 KW \*\* in less than or equal to 60 seconds, and operates at a load of 2340 - 2600 KW\*\* for at least 60 minutes.

Also, TS Section 4.8.1.1.2.f currently states, in part:

....At least once per 18 months, the following test shall be performed within 5 minutes of the diesel generator shutdown after the diesel has operated for at least two hours at 2500 - 2600 KW \*\*

The license has proposed the following revision to TS 4.8.1.1.2.f:

....At least once per 18 months, the following test shall be performed within 5 minutes of the diesel generator shutdown after the diesel has operated for at least two hours at 2340 - 2600 KW \*\*

The licensee stated that it currently uses portable temporary metering and test equipment during DG surveillance tests. The revision would eliminate the need for special test equipment and allow the use of local installed wattmeters for these surveillances. Expanding the DG loading band will accommodate the +/- 69 KW inaccuracies of the installed meter. This will significantly reduce the operating and maintenance costs of connecting and disconnecting test equipment six times a month (6 DGs). In the August 25, 2000, letter, the licensee stated that the test procedure will include: (1) a more limiting acceptance criterion to ensure that the TS loading band is not exceeded; and (2) a note that the band is meant as guidance to preclude routinely exceeding the design load recommended by the DG manufacturer. Loads in excess of this band for special testing or temporary variations as a result of changing busloads will not invalidate the test or make the DG tested inoperable.

The licensee stated that the nameplate "continuous rating" of the DG units is 2600 W, 900 rpm, 4160 V, 3 phase, 60 cycles. The units are sized to handle the loads necessary for a design basis LOCA coincident with the loss of all offsite power. The DGs are designed to be ready to accept load within 10 seconds of receiving a signal to start.

Expanding the diesel loading band from 2500–2600 KW to 2340–2600 KW is justified for the following reasons:

The purpose of the 1-hour surveillance is to verify that the diesel can start and is ready to accept load, not to verify the endurance limits of the DGs. DG loading levels are verified during the performance of the 24-hour endurance run. Since the loading criteria for the 24-hour endurance test is unchanged, changing the loading level for the 1-hour surveillance test will not affect the current verification of the diesel's ability to sustain the loading for a continued period of time.

RG 1.9 (Rev. 3), Section 2.3.2.1, "Monthly Testing" describes how to start and load the DG. Specifically, Section 2.2.2, "Load-Run Test" stipulates that the monthly test run the DG at a load of 90% to 100% of the DG continuous rating for not less than 1-hour. Therefore, loading the DG at a minimum of 90% is acceptable for the 1-hour surveillance test.

An engine malfunction is not expected to be influenced by a 10% variation in loading within the manufacturer's rating limit. Therefore, lowering the minimum loading during the surveillance test to 90% (2340 KW) is judged acceptable. The acceptance criterion for the test remains the stabilization of the voltage and frequency within the prescribed acceptable limits. Since the manufacturer's engine rating is unchanged, the revised minimum loading limit for the monthly surveillance test also will not affect the currently required maintenance interval for the engine.

In addition, all parameters monitoring the condition of the running engine are expected to stabilize within the 1-hour test duration. When the DG starts, any malfunction of the engine or its supporting systems will immediately be indicated by abnormal display of such parameters such as rapid rising lube oil/jacket water temperature, fluid leakage, vibration, governor

malfunction, and fuel delivery. Therefore, loading the DG at a minimum of 90% is acceptable for the 1-hour surveillance test.

On the basis of its review, the NRC staff finds that this revision is consistent with RG 1.9 (Revision No. 3) Section 2.3.2.1, and the improved standard TSs. The staff concludes that this revision is acceptable.

### 3.3 TS Section 3/4.8.1, A.C. Sources, Surveillance Requirement Notes

At present, the TS 3.8.1.2 SR NOTE reads:

The following surveillances are not required to be performed to maintain operability during Modes 5 and 6. These surveillances are: 4.8.1.1.1.b, 4.8.1.1.2.d.2, 4.8.1.1.2.d.3, 4.8.1.1.2.d.4, 4.8.1.1.2.d.6, 4.8.1.1.2.d.7, 4.8.1.1.2.d.9, 4.8.1.1.2.e, and 4.8.1.1.2.f.

The licensee's proposed modification would read:

The following surveillances are not required to be performed to maintain operability during Modes 5 and 6. These surveillances are: 4.8.1.1.1.b, 4.8.1.1.2.d.2, 4.8.1.1.2.d.3, 4.8.1.1.2.d.4, 4.8.1.1.2.d.6, 4.8.1.1.2.d.9, 4.8.1.1.2.e, 4.8.1.1.2.f, and 4.8.1.1.2.g.

License Amendment Nos. 229 and 210 to the Salem TSs eliminated the requirement to perform the 24-hour endurance run during shutdown conditions by deleting SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.7 and relocating its requirements to a new SR 4.8.1.1.2.g, which allows this test to be conducted at power. However because of an administrative oversight, a note at the bottom of TS 3.8.1.2, "Electrical Power Systems -Shutdown," was not revised. The note exempts the licensee from performing a number of surveillances including SR 4.8.1.1.2.d.7 in Modes 5 and 6 to determine diesel operability. The note should have been revised to delete the reference to 4.8.1.1.2.d.7 and to incorporate the new SR 4.8.1.1.2.g. This revision is considered administrative.

On the basis of its review, the staff finds that this revision is administrative, and is, therefore, acceptable.

### 3.4 Summary

The staff has reviewed the proposed amendment and finds that the proposed revisions will reduce the burden of unnecessarily testing the DGs and, more importantly will minimize unnecessary operating wear and stress, and starting challenges of the DGs. The proposed changes are consistent with applicable GDCs, 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of All Alternating Current Power," and the improved standard TSs. Therefore, the proposed amendment is acceptable.

## 4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New Jersey State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (65 FR 43052). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: A. Pal

Date: April 2, 2001

PSEG Nuclear LLC

Salem Nuclear Generating Station,  
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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