

March 6, 2006

Mr. Christopher M. Crane  
President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT  
RE: REMOVAL OF LICENSE CONDITIONS IN APPENDIX C OF FACILITY  
OPERATING LICENSE (TAC NO. MC7072)

Dear Mr. Crane:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 184 to Facility Operating License (FOL) No. NPF-39 for the Limerick Generating Station, Unit 1. This amendment consists of changes to the FOL in response to your application dated January 10, 2005. This amendment removes the license conditions concerning the emergency core cooling system pump suction strainers from Appendix C of FOL NPF-39. These license conditions were added by Amendment No. 128.

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/**

Richard V. Guzman, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-352

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 184 to FOL No. NPF-39
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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Limerick Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC

DOCKET NO. 50-352

LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 184  
License No. NPF-39

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment by Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee), dated January 10, 2005, 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;
  - 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 Facility Operating License No. NPF-39 as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment.
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/*

Darrell J. Roberts, Chief  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Revised Appendix C to  
the Facility Operating  
License

Date of Issuance: March 6, 2006

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 184

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-39

DOCKET NO. 50-352

Replace the following page of Appendix C to the Facility Operating License. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

1

Insert

1

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 184 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-39  
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC  
LIMERICK GENERATING STATION, UNIT 1  
DOCKET NO. 50-352

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated January 10, 2005, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) for the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Unit 1. The proposed changes would remove the license conditions concerning the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) pump suction strainers from Appendix C of Facility Operating License No. NPF-39. These license conditions were added by Amendment No. 128. Specifically, the proposed changes would remove the authorization to revise the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) based on the licensee's application dated October 6, 1997, as supplemented on February 2, 1998, and May 14, 1998. The proposed changes would also remove a license condition requiring periodic inspection of the ECCS suction strainers.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.36 specifies the criteria for including limiting conditions for operation (LCOs) in the TSs for commercial nuclear power reactors. According to 10 CFR 50.36, an LCO must be established for items that meet one or more of the following criteria:

Criterion 1: Installed instrumentation that is used to detect, and indicate in the control room, a significant degradation of the reactor coolant pressure boundary.

Criterion 2: A process variable, design feature, or operating restriction that is an initial condition of a design basis accident or transient analysis that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier.

Criterion 3: A structure, system, or component that is part of the primary success path and which functions or actuates to mitigate a design basis accident or transient that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier.

Criterion 4: A structure, system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic risk assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety.

Section 50.50 of 10 CFR gives the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) the discretion to issue licenses in such form, and containing such conditions and limitations as it deems appropriate and necessary. Section 50.90 of 10 CFR states the requirements for application for amendment to operating licenses.

### 3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

Amendment No. 128 to the Facility Operating License for LGS, Unit 1, authorized changes to the UFSAR. These changes were incorporated in Revision 9 of the UFSAR in November 1999. The Amendment also incorporated license conditions concerning the inspection of ECCS strainers. The requirements for inspection of the strainers have since been incorporated into the licensee's preventive maintenance program. The UFSAR changes and inspection requirements were part of the licensee's response to NRC Bulletin 96-03.

Because the changes to the UFSAR have been incorporated, there is no longer any reason for the licensing condition authorizing these changes. The NRC staff has concluded, therefore, that the removal of this condition has no impact on plant safety and is acceptable.

Because the ECCS suction strainer inspection requirements have been incorporated into the licensee's preventive maintenance program, changes to these requirements are controlled by 10 CFR 50.59. The NRC staff believes that the preventive maintenance program is a more appropriate vehicle for controlling strainer inspection requirements than are license conditions; furthermore, the staff believes that the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 ensure that no changes to the inspection, that are adverse to safety, will be made. The staff concludes, therefore, that the removal of the license conditions regarding strainer inspection will have no impact on plant safety and is acceptable.

### 4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

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

### 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves 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 amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (71 FR 149). Accordingly, the amendment meets 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 amendment.

### 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 amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: G. Wunder

Date: March 6, 2006