

**North
Atlantic**

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The Northeast Utilities System

Ted C. Feigenbaum
Senior Vice President &
Chief Nuclear Officer

NYN-95048

May 30, 1995

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

References: (a) Facility Operating License No. NPF-86, Docket No. 50-443
(b) North Atlantic Letter NYN93160, dated November 23, 1993, License Amendment Request 93-18, Wide Band Operation and Core Design Enhancements
(c) NRC Letter dated November 23, 1994, Amendment 33, Wide Band Operation and Core Enhancements

Subject: License Amendment Request 95-05: Positive Moderator Temperature Coefficient (TAC No. M92006)

Gentlemen:

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) has enclosed herein License Amendment Request (LAR) 95-05. This LAR is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10CFR50.90 and 10CFR50.4.

The purpose of LAR 95-05 is to propose changes to the Seabrook Station Technical Specifications to allow operation of the core with a positive moderator temperature coefficient (PMTTC). The proposed changes will also allow improved fuel cycle management through increased flexibility in core design.

This LAR is submitted as a Cost Beneficial Licensing Action (CBLA) in that it provides substantial economic benefit to North Atlantic and does not reduce the protection provided to the health and safety of the public. The implementation of this amendment will provide significant improvement in fuel utilization by reducing the amount of burnable neutron absorber required to control core reactivity. This reduction will result in a savings of approximately \$800,000 per operating cycle.

In LAR 93-18, North Atlantic proposed a PMTC for Seabrook Station. The proposed change to the Technical Specifications followed the example of other Westinghouse PWRs which were already licensed with a PMTC. LAR 93-18 has been approved and License Amendment No. 33 was issued without the proposed change to a PMTC due to a reference to an unapproved Westinghouse document. With the exception of the section which demonstrates compliance with the ATWS Rule, the safety analysis contained in YAEC-1871 with its approval in License Amendment No. 33 provides assurance that Seabrook Station can be safely operated with a PMTC. In LAR 95-05 North Atlantic proposes a PMTC based on previously approved analyses. This methodology is very similar to that used by Kewaunee to justify a PMTC which the NRC issued as Amendment 117 to Operating License DPR#043 on April 3, 1995.

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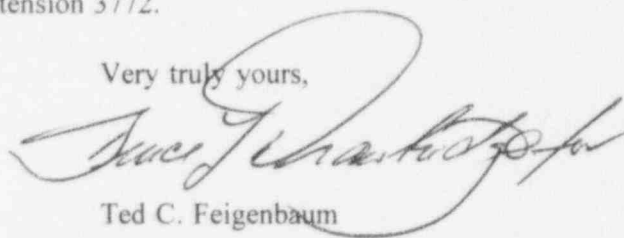
LAR 95-05 has been reviewed and approved by the Station Operation Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Audit Review Committee.

As discussed in the enclosed LAR Section IV, the proposed changes do not involve a significant hazard consideration pursuant to 10CFR50.92. A copy of this letter and the enclosed LAR have been forwarded to the New Hampshire State Liaison Officer pursuant to 10CFR50.91(b). In addition, North Atlantic has determined that LAR 95-05 meets the criteria of 10CFR51.22(c)(9) for a categorical exclusion from the requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (see Section VI enclosed).

North Atlantic requests NRC review of LAR 95-05 and issuance of a license amendment by December 1, 1995 (see Section V enclosed).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. James M. Peschel, Regulatory Compliance Manager at (603) 474-9521, extension 3772.

Very truly yours,



Ted C. Feigenbaum

TCF/JMPjr:sm

Enclosure

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