

**North
Atlantic**

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874
(603) 474-9521

The Northeast Utilities System

February 18, 1997

Docket No. 50-443

NYN-97016

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Seabrook Station
License Amendment Request 97-01
"Design Features - Fuel Assembly Reconstitution" (TAC M97929)

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) has enclosed herein License Amendment Request (LAR) 97-01. LAR 97-01 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10CFR50.90 and 10CFR50.4.

LAR 97-01 proposes a change to reactor core fuel assembly design features requirements contained in Technical Specification 5.3.1, "Fuel Assemblies". The proposed change will allow the use of solid stainless steel or zirconium alloy filler rods in fuel assemblies to replace failed or damaged fuel rods. This submittal is in accordance with the guidance provided in Generic Letter 90-02, Supplement 1.

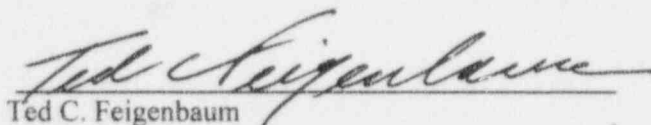
LAR 97-01 has been reviewed and approved by the Station Operation Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Audit Review Committee.

As discussed in the enclosed LAR Section IV, the proposed change does 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). North Atlantic requests NRC review of LAR 97-01 and issuance of a license amendment by May 1, 1997 (see Section V enclosed). North Atlantic has determined that LAR 97-01 meets the criteria of 10CFR51.22(c)(9) for a categorical exclusion from the requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (see Section VI enclosed).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Terry L. Harpster, Director of Licensing Services, at (603) 773-7765.

Very truly yours,

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORP.



Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer

250058

cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
A. W. De Agazio, NRC Project Manager
J. B. Macdonald, NRC Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. George L. Iverson, Director
New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301