

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-443]

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation, et al., (Seabrook Station Unit No. 1); Order Approving Application Regarding Corporate Merger (Canal Electric Company)**I**

North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) is authorized to act as agent for the joint owners of the Seabrook Station Unit No. 1 (Seabrook) and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility as reflected in Facility Operating License NPF-86. Canal Electric Company (Canal), one of the joint owners, holds a 3.52317-percent possessory interest in Seabrook. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Facility Operating License NPF-86 on March 15, 1990, pursuant to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR Part 50). The facility is located in Seabrook Township, Rockingham County, on the southeast coast of the State of New Hampshire.

II

Under cover of a letter dated February 11, 1999, North Atlantic forwarded an application by Canal requesting approval of the indirect transfer of control of Canal's interest in the operating license (OL) for Seabrook. The application was supplemented on February 23, March 5, and March 17, 1999 (collectively referred to hereinafter as the application).

According to the application, Canal is a wholly owned subsidiary of Commonwealth Energy System (CES). On December 5, 1998, CES and BEC Energy (BEC) entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger under which those entities will merge into a new surviving Massachusetts corporation (the "New Company"). Upon consummation of the merger, Canal will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the New Company, thereby effecting an indirect transfer of Canal's interest in Seabrook's OL. North Atlantic, the sole licensed operator of the facility, would remain as the managing agent for the 11 joint owners of the facility and would continue to have exclusive responsibility for the management, operation, and maintenance of Seabrook. The application does not propose a change in the rights, obligations, or interests of the other joint owners of Seabrook. In addition, no physical changes to

Seabrook or operational changes are being proposed. No direct transfer of the license will result from the proposed merger.

Approval of the indirect transfer was requested pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80. Notice of the application for approval and an opportunity for a hearing was published in the **Federal Register** on April 27, 1999 (64 FR 22657). No hearing requests were filed.

Under 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. Upon review of the information in the application, and other information before the Commission, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed merger will not affect the qualifications of Canal as a holder of the Seabrook license, and that the transfer of control of the license, to the extent effected by the proposed merger, is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission subject to the conditions set forth herein. The foregoing findings are supported by a safety evaluation dated August 11, 1999.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, 161o, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended; 42 USC 2201(b), 2201(i), 2201(o), and 2234; and 10 CFR 50.80, *it is hereby ordered* That the indirect license transfer referenced above is approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. Canal shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation a copy of any application, at the time it is filed, to transfer (excluding grants of security interests or liens) from Canal to its proposed parent, or to any other affiliated company, facilities for the production, transmission, or distribution of electric energy having a depreciated book value exceeding ten percent (10%) of Canal's consolidated net utility plant as recorded on Canal's books of accounts.

2. Should the transfer not be completed by August 1, 2000, this Order shall become null and void, provided, however, on application and for good cause shown, such date may be extended.

This Order is effective upon issuance. For further details with respect to this Order, see the initial application dated February 2, 1999, and supplements dated February 23, March 5, and March 17, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building,

2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Exeter Public Library, Founders Park, Exeter, NH 03833.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

William F. Kane,

Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-21398 Filed 8-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of August 16, 23, 30, September 6, and October 18, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of August 16

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of August 16.

Week of August 23—Tentative

Tuesday, August 24

2:00 p.m.

Briefing by Executive Branch
(Closed—ex. 1)

3:30 p.m.

Briefing on Threat Assessment
(Closed—ex. 1)

Wednesday, August 25

9:55 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)
(If needed)

Week of August 30—Tentative

Wednesday, September 1

9:25 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)
(if needed)

Week of September 6—Tentative

Tuesday, September 7

9:15 a.m.

Affirmation Session (Public Meeting)
(if needed)

9:20 a.m.

Briefing on PRA Implementation Plan
(Public Meeting) (Contact: Tom King, 301-415-5790)

AND

Week of October 18—Tentative

Thursday, October 21

9:30 a.m.

Briefing on Part 35—Rule on Medical Use of Byproduct Material (Contact: Cathy Haney, 301-415-6825) (SECY-99-201, *Draft Final Rule—10 CFR Part 35, Medical Use of Byproduct Material*, is available in the NRC Public Document Room or on NRC web site at “www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html”. Download the *zipped version* to obtain all attachments.)

The schedule for Commission meetings is subject to change on short notice. To verify the status of meetings call (recording)—(301) 415-1292. Contact person for more information: Bill Hill (301) 415-1661.

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The NRC Commission Meeting Schedule can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.nrc.gov/SECY/smj/schedule.htm>

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This notice is distributed by mail to several hundred subscribers; if you no longer wish to receive it, or would like to be added to it, please contract the Office of the Secretary, Attn: Operations Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555 (301-415-1661). In addition, distribution of this meeting notice over the Internet system is available. If you are interested in receiving this Commission meeting schedule electronically, please send an electronic message to whm@nrc.gov or dkw@nrc.gov.

Dated: August 13, 1999.

William M. Hill, Jr.,

SECY Tracking Officer, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-21527 Filed 8-16-99; 11:59 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Summary of Workshop on Redefining the Role of NRR Projects

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On July 23, 1999, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission sponsored a public workshop involving NRR Division of Licensing Project Management, licensing officials representing the nuclear industry, and other stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for constructive dialogue on the agency's efforts to redefine the responsibilities of the Division of Licensing Project Management. The discussion focused on three program areas: Licensing Authority, Interface, and Regulatory Improvements. A brief version of the

meeting summary is attached. The complete summary of the July 23, 1999, meeting with all attachments dated August 9, 1999, is available for public inspection at the Commission's public document room located at the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheri Peterson, Mail Stop O-8-G-9, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738; Telephone: (301) 415-1193; *Internet:SRP@NRC.GOV*.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, the 10th day of August 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Suzanne Black,

Deputy Director, Division of Licensing Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Summary—July 23, 1999, Meeting With Stakeholders on Redefining the Role of the Division of Licensing Project Management in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

On July 23, 1999, representatives of various licensees and members of the public met in a public meeting with members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The NRC invited representatives of various nuclear utilities, other groups, and the public to participate in a workshop to discuss the responsibilities of the Division of Licensing Project Management (DLPM) and solicit feedback on the Division's ongoing redefinition process from interested stakeholders. A list of attendees is provided as Attachment 1. The workshop agenda is provided as Attachment 2. The Division's re-invention report provided during the meeting is included as Attachment 3. The feedback obtained from the meeting participants during the breakout sessions is included as Attachment 4. The written comments received to date on the role of DLPM are included as Attachment 5.

DLPM is in the process of redefining its responsibilities. Previous audits and reviews had indicated that the function of operating reactor licensing project managers needed to be reevaluated, clearly defined, and communicated. In addition, the staff is attempting to correlate the functions of DLPM with the four strategic objectives of maintaining safety, reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, increasing public confidence, and increasing efficiency and effectiveness of key NRC processes. DLPM shared the results of its redefinition process with

external stakeholders to solicit feedback so that the responsibilities can be further refined.

After introductory remarks, the meeting participants broke into four groups to discuss the questions summarized in Attachment 4 (also published in the **Federal Register**, Volume 64, Number 133 dated July 13, 1999). Discussions focused on the project manager being the primary NRC interface for licensees and the public on operating plant licensing matters, the need for consistency, cost and scheduler control of licensing actions, and the importance of maintaining staff with the required knowledge, skills and abilities for effectively carrying out the project manager function. The feedback presented by the various participants during the breakout sessions, and included as Attachment 4, was very extensive and will be useful to the NRC in DLPM's initiatives involving the project manager function within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. Attachments:

1. Attendance List
2. Agenda (available in PDR)
3. DLPM Re-invention Report (available in PDR)
4. Feedback from breakout sessions
5. Written comments on the role of DLPM (available in PDR)

ATTACHMENT 1

PURPOSE: Redefining the Role of the Division of Licensing Project Management

Date: July 23, 1999.

Location: TWFN Auditorium.

Name	Affiliation
Steve Wideman	WCNOC
Pat Nugent	PGBE
Roger DeWolfe	TXU
Kenneth Russell	First Energy
John A. Zwolinski	NRR-DLPM
Philip A. Rose	SCE&G
Jeff Sobotka	NAFISCO
George Wrobel	RG&E
Mike Krupa	Entergy
Mike Brandon	Entergy W3
Paul Blanch	Millstone
Mark J. Ajluni	Southern Nuclear Oper. Co.
Joe Sheppard	STPNOC
Jon Hopkins	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Patrick Sekerak	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Alan Wang	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Helen Pastis	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Jack Cushing	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Marsha Gamberoni ...	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Lee Berry	NRC/NRR/DLPM
James Perselter	North Atlantic
Mike Runchark	AEP
Norm Peterson	Detroit Edison
R. M. Kruch	ConEd
Jerry Roberts	Entergy Ops GGRS
Roger Huston	Licensing Support Services