

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

[Docket Nos. 50-352 and 50-353]

**Peco Energy Company, Limerick Generating Station, Unit 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-39 and NPF-85, issued to PECO Energy Company (the licensee), for operation of the Limerick Generating Station (LGS), Units 1 and 2, located in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

**Environmental Assessment***Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would clarify several administrative requirements, delete redundant administrative requirements, and correct typographical errors in the LGS, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs) in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated September 27, 1999.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would provide clarity and administrative correctness to the TSs.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the changes to the TSs are administrative in nature.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequence of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there is no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

*Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (*i.e.*, the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

*Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2.

*Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its state policy, on October 8, 1999, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. David Ney of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comment.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated September 27, 1999, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. Publically available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the electronic reading room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of February, 2000.

For Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Bartholomew C. Buckley,**

*Sr. Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****Letter of Agreement Between the U.S. Department of Interior Minerals Managements Service, Gulf of Mexico, OCS Region and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Concerning the Radiation Safety Inspections of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Activities on Offshore Facilities and Laybarges in Federal Jurisdiction**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to advise the public of the issuance of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) between the U.S. Department of Interior Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The purpose of the LOA is to describe the cooperative agreement between MMS and NRC in ensuring the protection of the public health and safety and the environment from the hazards of radioactive materials that may be used on offshore facilities and laybarges in offshore waters under Federal jurisdiction. The LOA provides for air transportation arrangements of NRC inspectors to offshore facilities by MMS-contracted helicopters at no charge or exchange of services to NRC. The LOA also provides for licensed material orientation and radiation safety program training to MMS staff by NRC.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 7, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of all NRC documents are available for public inspection, and copying for a fee, in the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, (Lower Level), Washington, DC. The NRC Public Document Room is open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Telephone service is provided from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at 202-634-3273 or toll-free at 1-800-397-4209.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roberto J. Torres, NMSS, Mail Stop T8-F5, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20005-0001. Telephone: (301) 415-8112; Fax: (301) 415-5369; e-mail: [rjt@nrc.gov](mailto:rjt@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28 day of February, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Josephine M. Piccone,**

*Deputy Director, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.*

Letter of Agreement Between the Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico, OCS Region and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Concerning the Radiation Safety Inspections of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Activities on Offshore Facilities and Laybarges in Federal Jurisdiction

**I. Introduction**

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) describes the cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in ensuring the protection of the public health and safety and the environment from the hazards of radioactive materials that may be used on offshore facilities and laybarges in offshore waters under Federal jurisdiction.

**II. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this LOA is to identify the areas of cooperation between MMS and the NRC to facilitate NRC inspection of the safe use of radioactive materials on offshore facilities and laybarges. Mutual interests involve the inspection of such sites in order to verify that NRC-licensed activities are conducted safely and in compliance with NRC requirements, and ensure the safety of facility and laybarga personnel during the use of NRC-licensed radioactive material. Radioactive materials within the scope of this LOA mean byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials as defined in Sections 11e., 11z., and 11aa. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), as amended, and the NRC's regulations thereunder. Offshore facilities and laybarges include those that are in offshore waters under Federal jurisdiction. The term "offshore waters" means that area of land and water, beyond Agreement States' Submerged Lands Act jurisdiction, on or above the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

**III. Authority and Regulatory Program**

**A. MMS**

The MMS is responsible for managing the mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) of the United States in an environmentally sound and safe manner. In addition, MMS is both the resource manager and fiscal manager for collecting and accounting for OCS revenues and leasing OCS lands, regulating development activities to

protect the coastal and marine environment, and ensuring that when operations are completed, the site is properly abandoned.

**B. NRC**

Under the AEA, as amended, the NRC is responsible for regulating the use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear material within the United States and its territories, consistent with its mission to ensure adequate protection of the public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

**IV. Agency Responsibilities**

The following are the offices responsible for this agreement:

*For the Minerals Management Service:*

Regional Director U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd. New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

*For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:*

Regional Administrator Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, Texas 76011

Each agency shall designate the agency organizational unit responsible for the coordination and management of activities covered by this LOA. Each agency shall designate the individual(s) who will serve as the respective coordination officer(s) or point(s) of contact (POC). The coordination officers or POCs will coordinate and facilitate actions required by their respective agencies.

NRC will notify known lease and pipeline operators working offshore that NRC, in cooperation with MMS, will be conducting unannounced inspections of NRC licensees performing licensed activities on offshore facilities and laybarges. NRC will comply with the personal safety and site access requirements mandated by each facility or laybarga operator.

NRC will provide MMS staff with licensed material orientation and radiation safety program training as MMS staff and NRC staff schedules will allow. The purpose of this orientation and training is to enable MMS to notify NRC in case MMS recognizes irregularities in licensees' activities. NRC will also provide MMS copies of inspection reports and event reports involving licensees working in offshore Federal waters.

MMS will arrange for transportation to offshore facilities or laybarges on MMS contracted helicopters for NRC inspectors based on availability and advance schedule coordination by NRC.

MMS will provide this service at no financial charge or exchange of services to the NRC.

**V. Elements of Coordination**

Both agencies agree to exchange information with respect to relevant programs and lessons learned, resources permitting. The purpose of these exchanges is to provide expert technical assistance to both agencies. NRC will coordinate with the MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional office for the scheduled inspection of licensees conducting licensed activities in offshore Federal waters. Additionally, NRC will coordinate the scheduling of offshore inspections with MMS based on guidance provided by MMS relative to seat availability on MMS contracted helicopters.

**VI. Other Laws and Matters**

Nothing in this LOA shall be deemed to restrict, modify, or otherwise limit the application or enforcement of any laws of the United States with respect to matters specified herein, nor shall anything in the LOA be construed as modifying the existing authority of either agency.

**VII. Effective Date, Modification, and Termination of LOA**

This LOA will take effect when it has been signed and dated by the authorized representatives of the MMS and the NRC. It may be modified by mutual written consent, or terminated by either agency upon 60 days advance written notice to the other agency.

Approved and Accepted for the Minerals Management Service

Chris Oynes,

*Regional Director, U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.*

January 7, 2000.

Approved and Accepted for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Ellis W. Merschoff,

*Regional Administrator, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.*

December 23, 1999.

[FR Doc. 00-5150 Filed 3-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Draft FY 2000-2005 Strategic Plan**

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking public