

NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of August 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-20575 Filed 8-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311]

PECO Energy Company (Salem Generating Station Units 1 and 2); Order Approving Transfer of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

I

PECO Energy Company (PECO) owns 42.59 percent of Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (the facility) and in connection therewith is a co-holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, which authorize possession, use, and operation of the facility. Public Service Gas and Electric Company (PSE&G) another co-owner of the facility, is the licensed operator. The facility is located at the licensee's site in Salem County, New Jersey.

II

Under cover of a letter dated December 20, 1999, PECO submitted an application requesting approval of the transfer of the licenses for the facility, to the extent held by PECO, in connection with the proposed transfer of its ownership interest in Salem, Units 1 and 2, to a new generating company, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon Generation Company), to be formed in connection with the proposed merger of Unicom Corporation (Unicom), parent of Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd), and PECO. Supplemental information was provided by submittals dated January 3, February 14, March 10, March 23, March 30, and June 15, 2000. Hereinafter, the December 20, 1999, application and supplemental information will be referred to collectively as the "application." Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, PSE&G submitted an application dated December 22, 1999, for conforming license amendments to reflect the proposed license transfer. This application was supplemented by the PECO submittal dated June 15, 2000. The conforming amendments would remove PECO from the facility operating

licenses and would add Exelon Generation Company in its place. After completion of the proposed transfer, Exelon Generation Company will be the owner of PECO's 42.59 percent interest in Salem, Units 1 and 2. PSE&G will continue to be the sole operator of the facility.

By a separate application dated December 20, 1999, ComEd requested approval of the transfer of the facility operating licenses that it holds to Exelon Generation Company. That application is being addressed separately.

Approval of the transfer of the facility operating licenses was requested by PECO pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80. Notice of the request for approval and consideration of approval of the conforming amendments, and an opportunity for a hearing was published in the **Federal Register** on March 9, 2000 (65 FR 12591). The Commission received no comments or requests for hearing pursuant to such notice.

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 by PECO, and other information before the Commission, and relying upon the representation and agreements contained in the application, the NRC staff has determined that Exelon Generation Company is qualified to hold the licenses to the extent proposed in the application, and that the transfer of the licenses to Exelon Generation Company is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions set forth below. The NRC staff has further found that the application for the proposed license amendments complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I; the facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act and the rules and regulation of the Commission; there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the proposed license amendments can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public and that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations; the issuance of the proposed license amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and the issuance of the

proposed amendments will be in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

The findings set forth above are supported by a safety evaluation dated August 3, 2000.

III

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, 161o, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2201(b), 2201(i), 2201(o), and 2234; and 10 CFR 50.80, *It is hereby ordered* that the transfer of the licenses as described herein to Exelon Generation Company is approved, subject to the following conditions:

(1) Exelon Generation Company shall provide to 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 Exelon Generation Company to its direct or indirect 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 Exelon Generation Company's consolidated net utility plant, as recorded on Exelon Generation Company's book of accounts.

(2) PECO shall transfer to Exelon Generation Company the decommissioning trust funds for Salem, Units 1 and 2, in the following minimum amounts, when Salem, Units 1 and 2, are transferred to Exelon Generation Company:
Salem, Unit 1—\$53,780,652
Salem, Unit 2—\$45,059,302

(3) At the time the transfer of the units to Exelon Generation Company is effected and thereafter, the decommissioning trust agreements for Salem, Units 1 and 2 shall be subject to the following:

(a) The decommissioning trust agreements must be in a form acceptable to the NRC.

(b) With respect to the decommissioning trust funds, investments in the securities or other obligations of Exelon Corporation or affiliates thereof, or their successors or assigns are prohibited. Except for investments tied to market indexes or other non-nuclear sector mutual funds, investments in any entity owning one or more nuclear power plants are prohibited.

(c) The decommissioning trust agreements for Salem, Units 1 and 2, must provide that no disbursements or payments from the trust shall be made by the trustee unless the trustee has first

given the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation 30 days prior written notice of payment. The decommissioning trust agreements shall further contain a provision that no disbursements or payments from the trusts shall be made if the trustee receives prior written notice of objection from the NRC.

(d) The decommissioning trust agreements must provide that the agreements can not be amended in any material respect without 30 days prior written notification to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

(e) The appropriate section of the decommissioning trust agreements shall state that the trustee, investment advisor, or anyone else directing the investments made in the trust shall adhere to a "prudent investor" standard, as specified in 18 CFR 35.32(a)(3) of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations.

(4) Exelon Generation Company shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the decommissioning trusts are maintained in accordance with the application for approval of the transfer of the Salem, Units 1 and 2, licenses and the requirements of this Order approving the transfer, and consistent with the safety evaluation supporting this Order.

(5) Before the completion of the transfer of the subject ownership interest in Salem, Units 1 and 2, to it, Exelon Generation Company shall provide the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation satisfactory documentary evidence that Exelon Generation Company has obtained the appropriate amount of insurance required of licensees under 10 CFR Part 140 of the Commission's regulations.

(6) After receipt of all required regulatory approvals of the transfer of its ownership interest in Salem, Units 1 and 2, PECO shall inform the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in writing, of such receipt within 5 business days, and of the date of the closing of the transfer no later than 7 business days prior to the date of the closing. Should the transfer of the licenses not be completed by July 31, 2001, this Order shall become null and void, provided, however, upon written application and for good cause shown, such date may in writing be extended.

(7) Approval of the transfer of the licenses for Salem, Units 1 and 2 is conditioned upon all of the PECO and Commonwealth Edison Company nuclear units described in the application to be transferred to Exelon Generation Company becoming owned

by Exelon Generation Company contemporaneously.

It is further ordered that, consistent with 10 CFR 2.1315(b), a license amendment that makes changes, as indicated in Enclosure 6 to the letter forwarding this Order, to conform the licenses to reflect the subject license transfers is approved. The amendments shall be issued and made effective at the time the proposed license transfers are completed.

This Order is effective upon issuance.

For further details with respect to this Order, see the initial transfer application dated December 20, 1999, and amendment application dated December 22, 1999, and supplemental submittals dated January 3, February 14, March 10, March 23, March 30, and June 15, 2000, and safety evaluation dated August 3, 2000, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of August 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-20580 Filed 8-11-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

PECO Energy Company (Limerick Generating Station, Units 1 and 2); Order Approving Transfer of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

I

PECO Energy Company (PECO, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-39 and NPF-85, which authorize the possession, use, and operation of the Limerick Generating Station (Limerick), Units 1 and 2 (the facility). The facility is located at the licensee's site in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

II

Under cover of a letter dated December 20, 1999, PECO submitted an application requesting approval of the proposed transfer of the facility operating licenses to a new generating company, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon Generation Company) to be formed in connection with the proposed

merger of Unicom Corporation (Unicom), the parent of Commonwealth Edison Company, and PECO. PECO also requested approval of conforming license amendments to reflect the transfer. Supplemental information was provided by submittals dated January 3, February 14, March 10, March 23, March 30, and June 15, 2000. Hereinafter, the December 20, 1999, application and supplemental information will be referred to collectively as the "application." The conforming amendments would remove PECO from the facility operating licenses and would add Exelon Generation Company in its place. After completion of the proposed transfer, Exelon Generation Company will be the sole owner and operator of Limerick.

By a separate application dated December 20, 1999, Commonwealth Edison requested approval of the transfer of the facility operating licenses that it holds to Exelon Generation Company. That application is being addressed separately.

Approval of the transfer of the facility operating licenses and conforming license amendments was requested by PECO pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80 and 10 CFR 50.90. Notice of the request for approval and an opportunity for a hearing was published in the **Federal Register** on March 9, 2000 (65 FR 12587). The Commission received no comments or requests for hearing pursuant to such notice.

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 by PECO, and other information before the Commission, and relying upon the representation and agreements contained in the application, the NRC staff has determined that Exelon Generation Company is qualified to hold the licenses, and that the transfer of the licenses to Exelon Generation Company is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission, subject to the conditions set forth below. The NRC staff has further found that the application for the proposed license amendments complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I; the facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act and the rules and regulation of the Commission; there is reasonable