

Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision

In the Matter of

Applicant Hydro-Québec

Subject Application to amend the Gentilly-2 Nuclear
Generating Station Operating Licence with
Respect to the Deadline for Conducting Testing
of the Leak Rate from the Reactor Building

Hearing
Date June 25, 2007

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Hydro-Québec

Address: 4900 Bécancour Boulevard, Gentilly, Bécancour, Quebec
G9H 3X3

Purpose: Application to amend the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station
Operating Licence with Respect to the Deadline for Conducting
Testing of the Leak Rate from the Reactor Building

Application received: March 14, 2007

Date of hearing: June 25, 2007

Location: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
280 Slater Street, 12th floor, Ottawa, Ontario

Members present: L. J. Keen, Chair

Secretary: K. McGee

Recording secretary: S. Dimitrijevic

Licence: Amended

Date of Decision: June 25, 2007

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Introduction

1. Hydro-Québec has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC¹) for an amendment to the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station operating licence, PROL 10.00/2010. The purpose of the application is to extend the deadline for conducting testing of the leak rate from the reactor building.
2. According to this application, the testing that was initially scheduled to be conducted by Hydro-Québec by June 30, 2007, would be postponed to December 31, 2008, at the latest.

Issue

3. In considering the application, the Commission was required to decide, pursuant to subsection 24(4) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA):²
 - a) if Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activity that the licence would authorize;
 - b) if, in carrying on that activity, Hydro-Québec would make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

Hearing

4. Pursuant to section 22 of the NSCA, the Chair of the Commission established a Panel of the Commission to review the application.
5. The Panel of the Commission (hereafter referred to as the Commission), in making its decision, considered information presented for a hearing held on June 25, 2007, in Ottawa, Ontario. During the hearing, the Commission considered written submission from CNSC staff (CMD 07-H135).
6. In establishing the process, the Commission, through a standing panel on procedural matters, determined that it was not necessary to hold a public hearing on the matter, and the hearing was conducted by a panel of one Commission member, based on written submission.

¹ In this Record of Proceedings, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is referred to as the “CNSC” when referring to the organization and its staff in general, and as the “Commission” when referring to the tribunal component.

² S.C. 1997, c.9.

Decision

7. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concludes that Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activity that the amended licence will authorize and, in carrying on that activity, will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

The Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, amends the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station operating licence. The amended licence, PROL 10.01/2010, remains valid until December 31, 2010, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.

8. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions as recommended by CNSC staff in document CMD 07-H135.

Issues and Commission Findings

9. In making its licensing decision, the Commission considered a number of issues relating to Hydro-Québec's qualification to carry out the proposed activities and the adequacy of the proposed measures for protecting the environment, the health and safety of persons, national security and international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

Licence Amendment Requested

10. Hydro-Québec submitted an application to amend condition 3.6 of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station operating licence (PROL 10.00/2010) to extend the deadline for conducting testing of the leak rate from the reactor building. The effect of changing the deadline is a temporary change to the testing schedule and requires CNSC approval.
11. In response to CNSC concerns about the aging mechanisms of the reactor building's concrete, Hydro-Québec decided to conduct a pressure test of the reactor building while the building is subjected to full design pressure. The test was originally scheduled for June 30, 2007.

12. Hydro-Québec proposed to postpone the deadline to December 31, 2008, and submitted an application to the CNSC requesting approval, including a technical report justifying the postponement of the pressure test. The technical documentation submitted revealed that, in light of the results of past tests, the change in the leak rate would not be enough to significantly affect leakage by the end of December 2008.
13. CNSC staff reported that the conclusions of the Hydro-Québec analysis indicate that the deadline requested by Hydro-Québec for conducting the reactor building pressure testing does not present any risk with respect to the operation of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station.
14. CNSC staff has recommended approval of the amendment to condition 3.6 of operating licence PROL 10.00/2010.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

15. The Commission is satisfied that an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*³ is not required before it can proceed to make a decision on amending the permit.

Conclusion

16. The Commission has considered the information and submission by CNSC staff as placed on the hearing record.
17. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concludes that Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activity that the amended licence will authorize.
18. The Commission also concludes that Hydro-Québec will take the measures necessary for protecting the environment, the health and safety of persons, national security and international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
19. The Commission therefore amends, pursuant to section 24 of the NSCA, the Hydro-Québec licence PROL 10.01/2010 for operation of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station. The amended licence remains valid until December 31, 2010, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.

³ S.C. 1992, c. 37.

20. The Commission includes in the licence the condition recommended by CNSC staff, as set out in the draft licence attached to CMD 07-H135.

Linda J. Keen
Chair
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Decision date: June 25, 2007

Date of Release of Reasons for Decision: August 22, 2007