

Signed at Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1998.

Raymond Uhalde,

*Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Employment and Training.*

[FR Doc. 98-18224 Filed 7-8-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Dialogue on Unemployment Insurance Reform; Notice of Public Meetings

When President Clinton signed his 1999 budget proposals, he set in motion a reform of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. On March 13, 1998, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman announced a "Dialogue" to examine the UI program and the related Employment Service (IES) program in light of a changing economy. The framework for the "Dialogue" was set forth in the Dialogue Paper which has been mailed to stakeholders and other interested parties. This paper can also be found on the Internet at www.dol.gov. The "Dialogue" will allow interested parties to comment on a broad array of questions about the programs' effectiveness and will take place over the next year through several venues and forums, i.e., stakeholders meetings, public meetings. Major "Dialogue" issues for discussion include:

Individual Economic Adjustment: How well does the UI program help individuals unemployment workers by providing adequate financial resources and promoting transition to employment? Who should receive benefits; what kinds of reemployment services should be provided and how could these reemployment services be made more effective?

Macroeconomic Stabilizer: How well does the UI program serve as a counter-cyclical macroeconomic stabilizer—does it serve to stabilize the economy locally, regionally, nationally? How could the program's performance be improved?

Insurance Concepts: How well does the UI program operate in terms of core insurance principles of forward funding, risk pooling, and solvency? How well does the program accumulate resources for payment during periods of economic downturn? How well does the program operate in terms of pooling risks for employers and States? What are the consequences of diverging from these insurance principles?

Financing Benefits: How should the UI benefit financing structure work to assure efficiency, equity and incentives?

To what extent should employer tax rates be based on experience with unemployment? How could employer reporting and record keeping be streamlined?

Financing Administration: How should the administration of the UI and ES programs be financed? How well does the administrative financing system respond to workload changes over the business cycle? How should the administrative financing system encourage efficient and cost-effective operations?

Federal-State System: How should the Federal-State partnership work to assure a basic national UI program that reflects differences among the States? How can the partnership be improved? Are any changes needed in the division of responsibilities, such as financing, benefit structures, or oversight? What should be the relationship between UI and ES? What form should ES take in the future?

Time and Place: Two meetings will be held, the first on August 4, 1998 in Seattle, Washington and the second on August 11, 1998 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Seattle meeting will be held at the Seattle Airport Doubletree Hotel, 18740 Pacific Highway South, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Philadelphia meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Airport Marriott Hotel, Arrivals Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More meetings will be held.

Agenda: Agenda topics include the following:

- (a) Opening remarks—purpose/overview of meeting, introduction of discussion leaders
- (b) Description of Dialogue Issues
- (c) Oral Testimony
- (d) Open discussion of Dialogue Issues
- (e) Closing remarks

Public Participation: The meeting will be open to the public. Seating will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats will be reserved for the media. Individuals with disabilities should contact the Regional Coordinators, listed below, if special accommodations are needed. Individuals or organizations wishing to present oral testimony should contact the Regional Coordinator, and those wishing to submit written statements should send five (5) copies to the Regional Coordinator.

For Additional Information Contact: Seattle Coordinators—Larry Heasty and Bill James (206 553-7700), U.S. Department of Labor/ETA, 1111 Third Ave., Suite 900, Seattle WA 98101-3213. Philadelphia Coordinators—Leo Bull (215 596-0778), Rosemary Williams—Raysor (215 596-1411), and

April Hunt (215 596-0789), U.S. Department of Labor/ETA, P.O. Box 8796, Philadelphia, PA 19101

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 30th day of June 1998.

Raymond J. Uhalde,

Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 98-18225 Filed 7-8-98; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388]

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Units 1 & 2); Confirmatory Order Modifying Licenses Effective Immediately

I

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company, (PP&L or the Licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-17 and NPF-22, which authorize operation of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

II

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been concerned that Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier systems installed by licensees may not provide the level of fire endurance intended and that licensees that use Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barriers may not be meeting regulatory requirements. During the 1992 to 1994 time frame, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter (GL) 92-08, "Thermo-Lag 330-1 Fire Barriers" and subsequent requests for additional information that requested licensees to submit plans and schedules for resolving the Thermo-Lag issue. The NRC staff has obtained and reviewed all licensees' corrective plans and implementation schedules. The staff is concerned that some licensees may not be making adequate progress toward resolving the plant-specific issues, and that some implementation schedules may be either too tenuous or too protracted. For example, several licensees informed the NRC staff that their completion dates had slipped by 6 months to as much as 3 years. For plants that have completion action scheduled beyond 1997, the NRC staff has met with the licensees to discuss the progress of the licensees' corrective actions and the extent of licensee management attention regarding completion of Thermo-Lag corrective actions.

PP&L was one of the licensees with which the NRC staff held meetings. At these meetings, the NRC staff reviewed with PP&L the schedule of Thermo-Lag corrective actions described in the PP&L submittals to the NRC dated April 15, 1993; February 3 and December 22, 1994; August 2, 1995; February 4, 1997; and January 6 and May 4, 1998. Based on the information submitted by PP&L, the NRC staff has concluded that the schedules presented by PP&L are reasonable. This conclusion is based on the (1) amount of installed Thermo-Lag, (2) the complexity of the plant-specific fire barrier configurations and issues, and (3) the need to perform certain plant modifications during outages as opposed to those that can be performed while the plant is at power. In order to remove compensatory measures such as fire watches, it has been determined that resolution of the Thermo-Lag corrective actions by PP&L must be completed in accordance with current PP&L's schedules. By letter dated May 19, 1998, the NRC staff notified PP&L of its plan to incorporate PP&L's schedule commitment into a requirement by issuance of an Order and requested consent from the Licensee. By letter dated June 3, 1998, the Licensee provided its consent to issuance of a Confirmatory Order.

III

The Licensee's commitment as set forth in its letter of June 3, 1998, is acceptable and is necessary for the NRC to conclude that public health and safety are reasonably assured. To preclude any schedule slippage and to assure public health and safety, the NRC staff has determined that the Licensee's commitment in its June 3, 1998, letter be confirmed by this Order. The Licensee has agreed to this action. Based on the above, and the Licensee's consent, this Order is immediately effective upon issuance.

IV

Accordingly, pursuant to sections 103, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182, and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 2.202 and 10 CFR Part 50, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective immediately, that:

Pennsylvania Power & Light Company shall complete final implementation of Thermo-Lag 330-1 fire barrier corrective actions at Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, described in the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company's submittals to the NRC dated April 15, 1993; February 3 and December 22, 1994; August 2, 1995; February 4, 1997; and January 6 and May 4, 1998, by completion of the April 2000

refueling outage for SSES, Unit 1. Overall work package closeout will be completed by the end of December 2000.

The Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, may relax or rescind, in writing, any provisions of this Confirmatory Order upon a showing by the Licensee of good cause.

V

Any person adversely affected by this Confirmatory Order, other than the Licensee, may request a hearing within 20 days of its issuance. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to request a hearing. A request for extension of time must be made in writing to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and include a statement of good cause for the extension.

Any request for a hearing shall be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attention: Chief, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, Washington, D.C. 20555. Copies of the hearing request shall also be sent to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, to the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement at the same address, to the Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, 475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415 and to the Licensee. If such a person requests a hearing, that person shall set forth with particularity the manner in which his/her interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.714(d).

If a hearing is requested by a person whose interest is adversely affected, the Commission will issue an Order designating the time and place of any such hearing. If a hearing is held, the issue to be considered at such hearing shall be whether this Confirmatory Order should be sustained.

In the absence of any request for hearing, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the provisions specified in Section IV above shall be final 20 days from the date of this Order without further order or proceedings. If an extension of time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the provisions specified in Section IV shall be final when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received. An answer or a request for hearing shall not stay the immediate effectiveness of this Order.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 2nd day of July 1998.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 98-18228 Filed 7-8-98; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34-40161; International Series Release No. 1144; File No. 10-101]

Tradepoint Financial Networks plc; Notice of Application for Limited Volume Exemption From Registration as an Exchange Under Section 5 of the Securities Exchange Act

July 2, 1998.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.

ACTION: Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "Commission") is soliciting comments on whether to grant an exemption from registration as an exchange under Section 5 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") to Tradepoint Financial Networks plc on the basis of expected low volume.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons should submit three copies of their written data, views and opinions to Jonathan G. Katz, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Comments may also be submitted electronically at the following e-mail address: rule-comments@sec.gov. All comment letters should refer to File No. 10-101; this file number should be included on the subject line if comments are submitted using e-mail. All submissions will be available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 1024, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Electronically submitted comment letters will be posted on the Commission's Internet web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions or comments regarding this release, contact: Sheila C. Slevin, Assistant Director, at (202) 942-0796 or Constance B. Kiggins, Special Counsel, at (202) 942-0059; Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission, Mail Stop 10-1, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. For questions or comments regarding corporate disclosure and securities