

April 4, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: File Center

FROM: Richard B. Ennis, Project Manager, Section 2 */RA/*  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION,  
ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN AN UPCOMING CONFERENCE CALL  
(TAC NO. MA8279)

The attached information was transmitted by facsimile on April 3, 2000, to Mr. Charles Manges of Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G or the licensee). This information was transmitted to facilitate an upcoming conference call in order to clarify the licensee's submittal dated February 24, 2000, which requested approval of an unreviewed safety question (USQ) for Hope Creek Generating Station. The USQ pertains to the use of the mechanical vacuum pumps to evacuate the condenser during plant startup at power levels less than or equal to 5%. This memorandum and the attachment do not convey a formal request for information or represent an NRC staff position.

Docket No. 50-354

Attachment: Issues for Discussion in Upcoming Telephone Conference

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Issues for Discussion in Upcoming Telephone Conference  
Related to PSE&G License Change Request H99-12, dated February 24, 2000  
Request for Approval of Unreviewed Safety Question

The following questions relate to the operator actions required with respect to the use of the Mechanical Vacuum Pumps (MVPs) to evacuate the condenser during startup.

1. How many MVPs need to be manually tripped by the operators?
2. How many breakers need to be operated for each MVP?
3. What specific action is required to trip the breakers?
4. What kind of breakers are used and how do they operate?
5. The submittal states that "mechanical vacuum pump breakers are accessible to plant operators to manually trip the MVP." Where are the breakers located? Are the breaker labels easily identifiable and readable?
6. Do the MVPs have start/stop switches in the control room, and if so, why do breakers have to be tripped in the plant?
7. Are there any other operator actions required in addition to MVP breaker operation (e.g, manual valve operation)? Provide details as applicable.