

June 5, 2000

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Chief Nuclear Officer & President -
Nuclear Business Unit
Public Service Electric & Gas
Company
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE -
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. MA8640)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

By your application dated April 10, 2000, and affidavit dated March 21, 2000, executed by Mr. John Galembush for H. A. Sepp, you submitted a report "Westinghouse Thimble Deletion Study for Salem Unit 2 Cycle 11," and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. A nonproprietary version has been added to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems Publicly Available Records System (ADAMS PARS) Library.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- (a) Westinghouse plans to sell the use of similar information to its customers for purposes of justifying reduction in the number of available movable detector thimbles required.
- (b) Westinghouse can use this information to further enhance their licensing position with their competitors.

Public disclosure of this proprietary information is likely to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of Westinghouse because it would enhance the ability of competitors to provide similar licensing services for commercial power reactors without commensurate expenses. Also, public disclosure of the information would enable others to use the information to meet NRC requirements for licensing documentation without purchasing the right to use the information.

The development of the technology described in part by the information is the result of applying the results of many years experience in an intensive Westinghouse effort and the expenditure of a considerable sum of money.

In order for competitors of Westinghouse to duplicate this information, similar technical programs would have to be performed and a significant manpower effort, having the requisite talent and experience, would have to be expended for developing the enclosed information.

H. Keiser

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We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the report "Westinghouse Thimble Deletion Study for Salem Unit 2 Cycle 11," sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1324.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-311

cc: See next page

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Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 2

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