

July 3, 2001

Mr. Harold W. Keiser  
Chief Nuclear Officer & President  
PSEG Nuclear - X04  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 -  
COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02,  
"LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL"  
(TAC NOS. MA5839 AND MA5840)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989, or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this GL.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989

- (2) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G), provided a letter dated November 24, 1999, for Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. Associated with your corporate response was a request for a license amendment to change your TS to provide for testing as described in the GL. Supplemental information was also provided in a PSE&G letter dated February 10, 2000. However, by letter dated May 31, 2000, PSE&G submitted a subsequent request for a license amendment to change your TS which superseded your November 24, 1999, and February 10, 2000, letters. The NRC staff has reviewed your original responses and most recent application, and has concluded that you have provided the requested information and a TS change request in accordance with the GL. In addition, you have committed to test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until your TS amendment is issued. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facility. The new TS change will be reviewed as a separate, plant-specific action under TAC Nos. MA9105 and MA9106. We thank you for your timely and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me 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 Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

cc: See next page

- (2) Plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) Plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

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Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 2  
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PSEG Nuclear LLC

Salem Nuclear Generating Station,  
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. Elbert C. Simpson  
Senior Vice President &  
Chief Administrative Officer  
PSEG Nuclear - N19  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Mark B. Bezilla  
Vice President - Technical Support  
PSEG Nuclear - X10  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. David F. Garchow  
Vice President - Operations  
PSEG Nuclear - X10  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Gabor Salamon  
Manager - Licensing  
PSEG Nuclear - N21  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire  
PSEG Nuclear - N21  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Carter Kresge  
External Operations - Nuclear  
Conectiv  
P.O. Box 6066  
Newark, DE 19714-6066

Ms. R. A. Kankus  
Joint Owner Affairs  
PECO Energy Company  
Nuclear Group Headquarters KSA1-E  
200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Lower Alloways Creek Township  
c/o Mary O. Henderson, Clerk  
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Asst. Director  
Radiation Protection Programs  
NJ Department of Environmental  
Protection and Energy  
CN 415  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Richard Hartung  
Electric Service Evaluation  
Board of Regulatory Commissioners  
2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Assistant Consumer Advocate  
Office of Consumer Advocate  
1425 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Public Service Commission of Maryland  
Engineering Division  
Chief Engineer  
6 St. Paul Centre  
Baltimore, MD 21202-6806

Maryland Office of People's Counsel  
6 St. Paul Street, 21st Floor  
Suite 2102  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Resident Inspector  
Salem Nuclear Generating Station  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Drawer 0509  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038