

April 2, 2001

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

SUBJECT: SIMULATOR FACILITY CERTIFICATION REPORT, SALEM NUCLEAR
GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 AND HOPE CREEK
GENERATING STATION (TAC NOS. MB1358, MB1359 AND MB1360)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

In a letter dated December 21, 2000, PSEG Nuclear LLC submitted the 4-year Simulator Facility Certification Report pursuant to 10 CFR 55.45(b)(5)(ii), for Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Salem) and Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek). Your letter requested that the simulator certification period be changed to a calendar year basis with the 4-year certification period to begin on January 1, 2001.

As currently required by 10 CFR 55.45(b)(5)(ii), a simulator performance test report is to be submitted every 4 years on the anniversary of the certification. The certification for the Salem and Hope Creek simulators was on December 10, 1996, per NRC Form 474 which was attached to your letter dated December 10, 1996. As I recently discussed in a phone conversation with Mr. Brooke Knieriem of your staff, your request to change the certification period (i.e., interval starting on January 1 in lieu of December 10) would require an exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11. During the phone conversation I also mentioned that there is proposed rulemaking in progress to 10 CFR Part 55 that would remove the current requirements for certification of simulation facilities and submittal of the 4-year performance test reports. The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3, 2000 (65 FR 41021). The public comment period ended September 18, 2000. It is expected that if the final rule is approved, it will be published within the next 6 months.

Based on the above, if you conclude that a change to the certification period is still required, we request that you submit an exemption request which provides the justification for the change. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1420.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard B. Ennis, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272, 50-311, and 50-354

cc: See next page

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Hope Creek Generating Station and Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

cc:

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