

May 29, 1986

Docket Nos. 50-272  
and 50-311

Mr. C. A. McNeill, Jr.  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

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Dear Mr. McNeill:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -  
APPENDIX J EXEMPTION, SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1  
AND 2

By letter dated April 11, 1986, you requested a partial exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, III.D.2(b)(ii) for Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. Based on our assessment, we have concluded that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemptions and no significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

We have enclosed a Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. This notice is being forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/DFischer

Donald C. Fischer, Senior Project Manager  
PWR Project Directorate No. 3  
Division of PWR Licensing-A, NRR

Enclosure:  
Notice

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES

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NAME	:CVogan	:DFischer/ps	:	:Svarga	:	:
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DATE	: 5/14/86	: 5/15/86	: 5/20/86	: 5/15/86	:	:

Mr. C. A. McNeill  
Public Service Electric & Gas Company Salem Nuclear Generating Station

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, ET. AL.  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311  
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a partial exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the licensee) for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, located at the licensee's site in Salem County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Actions: The proposed exemption would relieve the licensee from the requirement of conducting a full pressure airlock leakage test, pursuant to Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, whenever airlocks are opened during periods when containment integrity is not required. Licensee would rely, instead, on the seal leakage test described in Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) when the reactor is in cold shutdown (Mode 5) or refueling (Mode 6) and when no maintenance has been performed on the airlock.

Licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefor are contained in a letter dated April 11, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Actions: The proposed exemption is from performance of the leakage rate test required by Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, which takes at least 8 hours per airlock. Exemption from

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full pressure leakage tests on airlocks opened during a period when containment integrity is not required would provide the licensee with greater plant availability over the lifetime of the plant.

Environmental Impact of Proposed Actions: The proposed exemption would permit the substitution of an airlock seal leakage test (Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J, 10 CFR Part 50) for the full pressure airlock test otherwise required by Paragraph III.D.2.(b)(ii) when the airlock is opened while the reactor is in a cold shutdown or refueling mode. If the tests required by III.D.2(b)(i) and (iii) are current, no maintenance having been performed on the airlock and with it properly sealed, this exemption will not affect containment integrity and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Actions: Because we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce environmental impacts of Salem Units 1 and 2 operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility or unwarranted delays in power ascension.

Alternative Use of Resources: These actions do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2," dated April 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemption. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to the proposed actions, see the licensee's request for exemption dated April 11, 1986 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Salem Free County Public Library, 112 W Broadway, Salem, New Jersey 08079.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 29th day of May 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Steven A. Varga, Director  
PWR Project Directorate No. 3  
Division of PWR Licensing-A