

July 6, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-272/311

Mr. Steven E. Miltenberger
Vice President and Chief Nuclear
Officer
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Dear Mr. Miltenberger:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - 10
CFR PART 50, APPENDIX R (TAC NOS. 53539/53540)

RE: SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

In response to your letter dated July 15, 1988, the Commission is considering issuance of a number of exemptions for Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 regarding requirements in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G. The proposed exemptions would allow the use of alternate means of meeting the intent of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R.

We have enclosed a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for these proposed exemptions which is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

James C. Stone, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION: w/enc1.		
Docket File	NRC PDR/LPDR	PDI-2 r/f
SVarga/BBoger	JStone/MThadani	OGC
ACRS (10)	MO'Brien (3)	GPA/PA
WButler	EJordan/BGrimes	

[STEVEN MILT]
*Previously concurred

PDI-2/LA*	PDI-2/PM*	PDI-2/D	OGC*
MO'Brien	JStone:tr	WButler	MYoung
06/16/89	06/16/89	06/10/89	06/29/89

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Stone".

James C. Stone, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Steven E. Miltenberger
Public Service Electric & Gas Company

Salem Nuclear Generating Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-272/311ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTAND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The licensee's request for the exemptions and the bases therefore are contained in a letter dated July 15, 1988. The exemptions relieve the licensee from the technical requirements concerning:

1. non-3-hour fire-rated features in 3-hour fire barriers in various areas of the plants (Licensee Exemption 1);
2. lack of a fixed fire suppression system in the control room (Licensee Exemption 2);
3. lack of an automatic fire suppression system in the reactor plant auxiliary equipment area, elevations 100 and 110 feet (Licensee Exemption 3);
4. lack of an automatic fire suppression system in the inner piping penetration area (Licensee Exemption 4);
5. lack of an automatic fire suppression system in the reactor plant auxiliary building, elevation 64 feet (Licensee Exemption 10);
6. lack of an automatic fire suppression system in the mechanical penetration areas, elevations 78 and 100 feet (Licensee Exemption 5);

7. lack of complete 1-hour fire rated barriers between redundant shutdown systems and a manually actuated fire suppression system in lieu of an automatic system in the 460V switchgear room (Licensee Exemption 6);
8. lack of complete 1-hour fire rated barriers between redundant shutdown systems in the lower electrical penetration area (Licensee Exemption 8);
9. lack of complete 1-hour fire rated barriers between redundant shutdown systems in the 4160 V switchgear room (Licensee Exemption 9);
10. lack of complete 1-hour fire-rated barriers or 20 feet free of intervening combustibles between redundant systems in the reactor plant auxiliary equipment area, elevation 84 feet (Licensee Exemption 7);
11. lack of complete 3-hour fire barriers between redundant shutdown systems in the RHR pump and heat exchanger areas (Licensee Exemption 13);
12. lack of 20 feet of separation free of intervening combustibles between redundant shutdown systems in containment (Licensee Exemption 12);
13. lack of an automatic fire suppression system and the absence of 20 feet of spatial separation between redundant systems in the pipe tunnel, elevation 84 feet (Licensee Exemption 14); and
14. lack of an automatic fire suppression system in the CO₂ equipment room, elevation 84 feet (Licensee Exemption 15).

The need for the proposed action:

The proposed exemptions are needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing fire protection at the two plants for these items are the most practical means for meeting the intent of Appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R for the affected areas of the plant such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the proposed exemptions will not: increase the probability of fires; increase the post-fire radiological releases beyond those previously determined nor otherwise affect radiological plant effluents; and increase the probability or consequences of any reactor accident. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there is no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with these proposed exemptions.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions, any alternatives to the exemptions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemptions. Such action would not reduce the environmental impacts of Salem Units 1 and 2 operations and would require additional time and resources to bring the facility into literal compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R with no significant enhancement of the fire protection capability.

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 Generating Station, Units 1 and 2," dated April 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request that supports the proposed exemptions. 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 exemptions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare and environmental impact statement for the proposed exemptions.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for the exemptions dated July 15, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Salem Free County Public Library, 112 W. Broadway, Salem, New Jersey 08079.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6 day of July 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Walter Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation