

October 31, 1990

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, SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. 76377/76378)

In response to your letter dated March 23, 1990, and supplemented by letter dated September 13, 1990, the Commission is considering issuance of an amendment to the exemption granted for Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 on July 20, 1989, regarding requirements in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.G. The proposed amendment would allow the use of a remote-manual, water based fire suppression system for fire areas 1 & 2 FA-RC-78 as a 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 this proposed exemption amendment 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/enclosure:

Docket File	MO'Brien (3)	LDoerflien
NRC PDR	OGC	JDyer
Local PDR	BBoger/SVarga	JCaldwell
PDI-2 Reading	EJordan	
ACRS (10)	WButler	
GPA/PA	JStone	
MThadani	RBlough	

[SALEM LET]

*See previous concurrence

PDI-2/LA*	PDI-2/PM*	OGC <i>JC</i>	PDI-2/D	<i>WB</i>	<i>DF01</i>
MO'Brien	JStone		WButler		
08/07/90	08/08/90	10/12/90	10/13/90		

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[SALEM LET]

<i>MO'Brien</i> PDI-2/PM JStone 8/17/90	<i>JC</i> PDI-2/PM JStone 8/18/90	OGC / /90	PDI-2/D WButler / /90
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

October 31, 1990

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Public Service Electric & Gas Company
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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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Engineering Division
ATTN: Chief Engineer
231 E. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-3486

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would amend the exemption issued on July 20, 1989 that approved the use of a localized automatic fire suppression system in the containment subarea (identified as 1 & 2 FA-RC-78) housing the pressurizer and Panel 335 at the 100 feet elevation (licensee's Exemption Request No. 12). This exemption was in lieu of separating redundant cables and equipment by at least 20 feet of horizontal distance, free of intervening combustibles or separation by a radiant energy shield as required by Section III.G.2 of Appendix R to 10 CFR 50. This amendment would allow the use of a localized, water-based fire suppression system with remote-manual actuation. In addition, the use of a fire detection system to actuate the fire suppression system would no longer be necessary. Smoke detectors would be installed in the area around Panel 335 that would alarm in the control room. The Commission's technical evaluation of this request will be published in a safety evaluation to be issued

concurrently with the exemption. This action is in response to the licensee's application for an amendment to the exemption dated March 23, 1990, and supplemental letter dated September 13, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption amendment is needed because the use of a fully automatic fire suppression system is unnecessarily restrictive. The licensee has reviewed the suppression agents available and has concluded that a localized, water based fire suppression system requiring remote manual action will provide acceptable protection for this area. This system provides a practical means to meet the intent of Appendix R.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

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

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment involves 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 exemption amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

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

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption amendment. 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 compliance with the original exemption with no significant enhancement of the fire protection capability.

Alternative Use of Resources:

The action does 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 exemption amendment. 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 amendment 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 amendment.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for the exemption amendment dated March 23, 1990, and the supplement dated September 13, 1990, which are 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 31st day of October 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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