

May 7, 1997

Mr. Leon R. Eliason  
Chief Nuclear Officer & President-  
Nuclear Business Unit  
Public Service Electric & Gas  
Company  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
RELATED TO PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT - SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING  
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M96926 AND M96927)

Dear Mr. Eliason:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application for license amendment dated October 25, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated December 11, 1996, January 28, March 27, and April 24, 1997. Your application proposed changes to Technical Specification Table 3.3-5, "Engineered Safety Features Response Time," that would increase the Containment Fan Cooler Unit (CFCU) response time from 45 to 60 seconds.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,  
(Original signed by)  
Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272/311

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. N. Olshan", is written over the typed name.

Leonard N. Olshan, Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272/311

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY  
PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY  
DELMARVA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY  
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2  
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 Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, issued to Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G, the licensee), for operation of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2 (Salem Units 1 and 2).

The facility consists of two pressurized water reactors located at the licensee's site in Salem County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would change Technical Specification Table 3.3-5, "Engineered Safety Features Response Time," to extend the Containment Fan Cooler Unit (CFCU) response time from 45 to 60 seconds.

The proposed action is in accordance with the license's application for amendment dated October 25, 1996, as supplemented by letters dated December 11, 1996, January 28, March 27, and April 24, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to make the Technical Specifications (TSs) consistent with the as-built plant. The as-built plant has a longer response time for the CFCUs than that identified in the TSs because (1) a 1976 plant modification added time delays to valves that isolate non-essential service water loads in response to an accident signals, and (2) the licensee failed to consider the impact of CFCU service water outlet valve sequencing delays on overall post-accident system performance. The 1976 modification was implemented to limit the potential for water hammer of the service water system during the isolation of the non-essential loads.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The radiological environmental impact of the proposed action has already been evaluated and approved by the staff. In support of Amendment No. 190 for Unit 1 and Amendment No. 173 for Unit 2, issued February 6, 1997, the staff performed its own analysis of the offsite doses resulting from a Loss of Coolant Accident. The staff's analysis was performed using the CFCU response time in the proposed action and the staff concluded that the offsite doses are within the applicable dose acceptance criteria of 10 CFR Part 100. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluent and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there

are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the action would be to deny the request. Such action would not change any current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Salem Nuclear Generating Station Units 1 and 2," dated April 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 14, 1997, the staff consulted with the New Jersey State official, Richard Pinney, of the Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

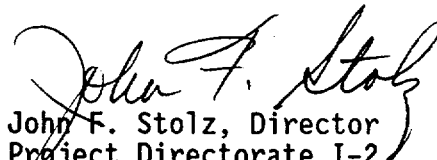
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letters dated October 25, 1996, December 11, 1996, January 28, March 27, and April 24, 1997, and Amendment Nos. 190 and 173, dated February 6, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the local public document room located at the Salem Free Public Library, 112 W. Broadway, Salem, New Jersey 08079.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of May 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Stolz", is written over the typed name and title.

John F. Stolz, Director  
Project Directorate I-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation