

October 27, 1988

Docket No. 50-311

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 50.46(a)(1)(i) - TEMPORARY EXEMPTION (TAC NO. 69814)

RE: SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2

In response to your letter dated October 21, 1988, the Commission is considering issuance of an exemption for Salem Generating Station, Unit 2, regarding requirements in Paragraph 50.46(a)(1)(i) in 10 CFR Part 50. The proposed exemption would allow the restart of Salem Generating Station, Unit 2, prior to completing the Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) reanalysis required because of steam generator tube plugging during the fourth refueling outage. The ECCS reanalysis would be completed and submitted for NRC staff review by March 31, 1989. Salem Generating Station, Unit 2, is scheduled to enter Mode 2 on November 1, 1988.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Walter R. Butler, Director
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:

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

*Previously Concurred

PDI-2/LA*	PDI-2/PM*	OGC*	PDI-2/D*
MO'Brien	JStone:tr		WButler
10/25/88	10/25/88	10/27/88	10/27/88

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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 "Walter R. Butler".

Walter R. Butler, Director
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 COMMISSION
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT 2
DOCKET NO. 50-311
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a temporary exemption from the requirements of Paragraph 50.46(a)(1)(i) to 10 CFR Part 50 to Public Service Electric and Gas Company, et. al. (the licensee) for the Salem Generating Station, Unit 2, located at the licensee's site in Salem County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The licensee's request for an exemption and the basis therefore are contained in a letter dated October 21, 1988. During the fourth refueling outage at Salem, Unit 2, all row 1 steam generator tubes were plugged and some unrecoverable loose parts were left in the Reactor Coolant System. The licensee has performed an analysis to demonstrate that the aforementioned conditions have no safety significant impact on the operation of the facility. However, the current Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) evaluation model (Westinghouse 1978) is no longer acceptable for further licensing actions as detailed in Generic Letter 86-16, Westinghouse ECCS Evaluation Models, dated October 22, 1986. Paragraph

50.46(a)(1)(i) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires ECCS cooling performance to be calculated in accordance with an acceptable model. The proposed exemption would temporarily exempt the licensee from this requirement until March 31, 1989, thus allowing Salem, Unit 2, to operate while the analysis is being performed.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed temporary exemption from the regulation is required to allow Salem, Unit 2, to restart from the fourth refueling outage and operate until March 31, 1989 when the ECCS reanalysis will be completed. Without this temporary exemption, Salem, Unit 2, would be forced to remain shutdown until the ECCS reanalysis is completed, a period of about five months.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. During the period of the exemption the plant will continue with normal operations. The licensee has analyzed the existing conditions (i.e. 2.7% of the steam generator tubes plugged and loose parts in the reactor coolant system) for their effect on the large break Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) analysis. The results show that the plugged steam generator tubes would increase the peak clad temperature (PCT) by 28°F. In addition, if the loose parts were to be lodged in their most unfavorable location and a LOCA occurred, the PCT for that location would increase by 22°F. However, the current licensing models use a higher fuel rod backfill pressure than actually exists in fuel rods that are currently in use. If this change in actual fuel rod backfill pressure is accounted for, the PCT is reduced by about 100°F. The net calculated change in PCT is a reduction of about 50°F. The criteria of

10 CFR 50.46(b) will continue to be satisfied. Therefore, the proposed change does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the allowable amounts and no significant changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation 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 Action: 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 Unit 2 operations and would result in a delay of about five months in restarting Salem, Unit 2.

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 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 action, see the licensee's request for the exemption dated October 21, 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 27th day of Oct. 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Walter R. Butler

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