

September 5, 1991

Docket No. 50-354

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 PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENT, HOPE CREEK GENERATING
STATION (TAC NO. 80715)

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No.43 to Facility Operating
License No. NPF-57 for the Hope Creek Generating Station. This amendment
consists of changes to Appendix B of the Hope Creek Generating Station License
in response to your application dated June 12, 1991.

This amendment incorporates into Section 4.2.1, Aquatic Monitoring, of the
Environmental Protection Plan, Appendix B of the Hope Creek Generating Station
license, the aquatic monitoring requirements to minimize the impact of the
station operation on sea turtles.

A copy of our safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be
included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/S/

Stephen Dembek, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 43 to
License No. NPF-57

2. Safety Evaluation
cc w/enclosures:

See next page

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Docket File	MO'Brien (3)	Wanda Jones, 7103	JWhite, RGN-I
NRC & Local PDR	SDembek	CGrimes, 11E-21	
PDI-2 Reading	JStone	ACRS (10)	
SVarga	OGC	GPA/PA	
JCalvo	DHagan, MS-3206	OC/LFMB	
WButler	GHill(4), P1-37	RBlough, RGN-I	

OFC	: PDI-2/BA	: PDI-2/PM	: OGC	: PDI-2/D
NAME	: MO'Brien	: SDembek:tlc	: J. Hill	: WButler
DATE	: 8/7/91	: 8/16/91	: 8/20/91	: 9/5/91

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

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A copy of our safety evaluation is also enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen Dembek".

Stephen Dembek, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 43 to License No. NPF-57
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

M. J. Wetterhahn, Esquire
Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Mr. Scott B. Ungerer, Manager
Joint Generation Projects Department
Atlantic Electric Company
Post Office Box 1500
1199 Black Horse Pike
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

R. Fryling, Jr., Esquire
Law Department - Tower 5E
80 Park Place
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 241
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Mr. S. LaBruna
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Department
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Mr. J. J. Hagan
General Manager - Hope Creek Operations
Hope Creek Generating Station
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Mr. Frank X. Thomson, Jr., Manager
Licensing and Regulation
Nuclear Department
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Asst. Director
Radiation Protection Programs
NJ Department of Environmental
Protection
CN 415
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0415



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

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-354

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 43
License No. NPF-57

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission or the NRC) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) dated June 12, 1991 complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Environmental Protection Plan Contained in Appendix B as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-57 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 43, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. PSE&G shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

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3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment:
Changes to the Environmental
Protection Plan

Date of Issuance: September 5, 1991

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 43

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57

DOCKET NO. 50-354

Replace the following pages of the Appendix B Environmental Protection Plan with the attached pages. The revised pages are identified by Amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the area of change.

Remove

4-1

-

-

Insert

4-1

4-1a

4-1b

4.0 Environmental Conditions

4.1 Unusual or Important Environmental Events

Any occurrence of an unusual or important event that indicates or could result in significant environmental impact causally related to plant operation shall be recorded and reported to the NRC within 24 hours followed by a written report per Subsection 5.4.2. The following are examples: excessive bird impaction events; onsite plant or animal disease outbreaks; mortality or unusual occurrence of any species protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973; fish kills; increase in nuisance organisms or conditions; and unanticipated or emergency discharge of waste water or chemical substances.

No routine monitoring programs are required to implement this condition.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring

4.2.1 Aquatic Monitoring

The certifications and permits required under the Clean Water Act provide mechanisms for protecting water quality and, indirectly, aquatic biota. The NRC will rely on the decisions made by the State of New Jersey under the authority of the Clean Water Act and, in the case of sea turtles and shortnose sturgeon, decisions made by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the authority of the Endangered Species Act for any requirements pertaining to aquatic monitoring.

In accordance with Section 7 (a) of the Endangered Species Act, on January 2, 1991, the NMFS issued a Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion related to the operation of Hope Creek Generating Station. This Section 7 Consultation entitled, "Reinitiation of a consultation in accordance with Section 7 (a) of the Endangered Species Act regarding continued operation of the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations on the eastern shore of the Delaware River in New Jersey," concluded that ". . . continued operation is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species."

In accordance with Attachment 1, Incidental Take Statement, to this Biological Opinion, and all subsequent amendments as may be approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service, PSE&G shall:

- (1) Inspect the Hope Creek Generating Station service water intake trash bars once per day and clean as necessary from June 1 through September 30.
- (2) Make use of dip nets and other equipment whenever possible to remove smaller sea turtles from intake water trash racks to reduce trauma caused by the existing cleaning mechanism.

- (3) Implement the sea turtle resuscitation procedures for comatose turtles described in Appendix I of the Section 7 Biological Opinion. These procedures and related materials shall be posted in appropriate areas.

- (4) The monitoring and reporting system established in 1981 and modified in Appendix II of the Section 7 Biological Opinion shall continue. These reports shall be sent to the NMFS, North East Region (NER) within 30 days of the incidental take. Notification and reporting to the NRC shall be in accordance with Section 4.1 of this plan.

Attachment 2, Conservation Recommendations, to this Biological Opinion suggests conservation recommendations for implementation by Hope Creek Generating Station. The Station shall implement these recommendations to the satisfaction of the National Marine Fisheries Service.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 43 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-354

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated June 12, 1991, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company and Atlantic City Electric Company (the licensees) submitted a request for changes to the Hope Creek Generating Station, Environmental Protection Plan. The requested changes would replace the existing section 4.2.1, Aquatic Monitoring, of the Environmental Protection Plan, Appendix B of the Hope Creek Generating Station Facility Operating License, with a revised section 4.2.1.

2.0 EVALUATION

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, a Section 7 Consultation was reopened to discuss the occurrence of impinged sea turtles on the Salem Generating Station circulating water system trash bars. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) were involved in the consultation. A Biological Opinion was issued by the NMFS on January 2, 1991. This document includes an Incidental Take Statement which outlines specific measures the NMFS feels PSE&G should take to facilitate observance and rescue of impinged sea turtles at both the Salem Generating Station and Hope Creek Generating Station. The Biological Opinion also includes a list of suggested Conservation Recommendations.

By letter dated March 11, 1991, PSE&G requested changes to the Incidental Take Statement contained in the January 2, 1991 Biological Opinion. On April 30, 1991, the NRC staff forwarded the requested changes to NMFS for approval. On May 30, 1991 NMFS approved the requested changes.

By letter dated April 11, 1991, the NRC staff requested PSE&G to incorporate into the Environmental Protection Plan for Salem and Hope Creek, the Incidental Take Statement requirements of the January 2, 1991, Biological Opinion. However, the changes requested in the March 11, 1991, letter were not to be included.

The changes proposed for the Hope Creek Environmental Protection Plan, Section 4.2.1 are:

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- (1) Inspect the Hope Creek Generating Station service water intake trash bars once per day and clean as necessary from June 1 through September 30.
- (2) Make use of dip nets and other equipment whenever possible to remove smaller sea turtles from intake water trash racks to reduce trauma caused by the existing cleaning mechanism.
- (3) Implement the sea turtle resuscitation procedures for comatose turtles described in Appendix I of the Section 7 Biological Opinion. These procedures and related materials shall be posted in appropriate areas.
- (4) The monitoring and reporting system established in 1981 and modified in Appendix II of the Section 7 Biological Opinion shall continue. These reports shall be sent to the NMFS, North East Region (NER) within 30 days of the incidental take. Notification and reporting to the NRC shall be in accordance with Section 4.1 of this plan.

In addition, a statement is being added to address the Conservation Recommendations that were in Attachment 2 of the Biological Opinion. This statement commits PSE&G to implement the Conservation Recommendations to the satisfaction of the NMFS.

The proposed changes are in agreement with the Incidental Take Statement of the January 2, 1991, Biological Opinion, as revised by the May 30, 1991 letter from NMFS. The staff finds the proposed changes to be acceptable. The licensee's June 12, 1991 letter requested a change to Facility Operating License NPF-50. This was a typographical error. The correct license number is NPF-57.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the New Jersey State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes inspection and surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (56 FR 33960). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: S. Dembek

Date: September 5, 1991