

JULY 3, 1989

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  
(TAC NO. 66830)

Re: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

In response to your letter dated November 25, 1987 as supplemented April 17, 1989, the Commission is considering issuance of an amendment for the Hope Creek Generating Station. The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications for the Hope Creek Generating Station to (1) separate the Reactor Building Filtration, Recirculation, and Ventilation System (FRVS) into two separate sections, one affecting the FRVS Recirculation Subsystem (FRVS-RS) and the other affecting the FRVS Ventilation Subsystem (FRVS-VS), (2) extend the life of the FRVS-RS adsorber charcoal, (3) eliminate unnecessary surveillance tests of the FRVS, and (4) provide minor clarifications for the FRVS and Control Room Emergency Filtration System (CREFS).

We have enclosed a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for this proposed amendment 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:  
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Docket File	NRC PDR	Local PDR	PDI-2 Reading	GPA/PA
SVarga/BBoger	WButler	MO'Brien	CShiraki/SBrown	
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[MILTEN LETTER]

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

July 3, 1989

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

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See next page

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

Hope Creek Generating Station

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-354ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-57 issued to Public Service Electric & Gas Company (the licensee) for operation of the Hope Creek Generating Station, located in Salem County, New Jersey.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications (TS) for the Hope Creek Generating Station to (1) separate the Reactor Building Filtration, Recirculation, and Ventilation System (FRVS) into two separate sections, one affecting the FRVS Recirculation Subsystem (FRVS-RS) and the other affecting the FRVS Ventilation Subsystem (FRVS-VS), (2) extend the life of the FRVS-RS adsorber charcoal, (3) eliminate unnecessary surveillance tests of the FRVS, and (4) provide minor clarifications for the FRVS and Control Room Emergency Filtration System (CREFS).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 25, 1987 as supplemented by a letter dated April 17, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the Technical Specifications is required to (1) clarify the surveillance requirements for both FRVS and CREFS, (2) relax presently overly conservative surveillance commitments which will, in turn,

significantly extend the service life of the FRVS Recirculation and Filtration subsystem charcoal without affecting the systems' capabilities or effectiveness as stated in the FSAR, and (3) permit maintenance activities in the reactor building or control room areas without dogmatically requiring a lengthy surveillance test of the FRVS or CREFS without regard for the actual impact of those maintenance activities on ventilation system efficiency.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the Technical Specifications. The proposed revision would revise the Technical Specifications Section 3/4.6.5.3 by creating separate Sections 3/4.6.5.3.1, and 3/4.6.5.3.2; rewording certain surveillance requirements and adding a footnote to those Sections; and, for Section 3/4.7.2, rewording surveillance requirement 4.7.2.c and adding a footnote to that Section. The separation of the Filtration, Recirculation, and Ventilation System into two subsystems with identical limiting conditions for operation and surveillance requirements provides the intended clarification and does not remove or relax the current requirements. The requested change of the acceptance criterion to 7.5% methyl iodine penetration for tests of the FRVS-RS charcoal while the acceptance criterion for the test of the FRVS-VS charcoal remains at 1.0% penetration corresponds to a combined iodide penetration for the two beds in series of less than 0.075%, which is within the Regulatory Guide 1.52 criterion. The requested change would require subsystem flow rate, in-place penetration, or carbon adsorbent laboratory tests only upon determination that the High Efficiency Particulate Activity (HEPA) filters or carbon adsorbent could have been damaged by structural maintenance or adversely affected by chemicals, fumes or foreign materials. The amendment

would further clarify that this determination shall consider the maintenance performed and/or the type, quantity, length of contact time, known effects and previous accumulation history for all contaminants which could reduce the system performance to less than that verified by the acceptance criteria of the tests.

The proposed amendment described above does not change operation of the facility and the change in the surveillance acceptance criterion is consistent with the intent of Regulatory Guide 1.52. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no 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. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes to the surveillance requirements. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Environmental Report-Operating License Stage for the Hope Creek Generating Station, dated August, 1983.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff consulted with the State of New Jersey. The comments received from the Bureau of Nuclear Engineering of the State of New Jersey will be addressed in the Safety Evaluation issued with the amendment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 25, 1987 and a supplement dated April 17, 1989 which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Pennsville Public Library, 190 S. Broadway, Pennsville, New Jersey 08070.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of July 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Walter Butler*

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