

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
 Executive Vice President
 Nuclear Business Unit
 Public Service Electric & Gas
 Company
 Post Office Box 236
 Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

81
 May 1998

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION-ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
 (TAC NO. MA0379)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 11 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-57 for the Hope Creek Generating Station. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated December 19, 1997, as supplemented March 6, 1998.

This amendment changes the wording of Section 4.2.2, "Terrestrial Ecology Monitoring," of the Environmental Protection Plan to include completion of the Salt Drift Monitoring Program.

Your application for this amendment was technically complete and addressed the relevant issues. The application's no significant hazards consideration determination was suitable for use without any changes. However, from an administrative standpoint, the application's depiction of the requested change could have been clearer as to the changes being proposed. Specifically, Attachment 2 to your application supplement dated March 6, 1998, shows that Environmental Protection Plan pages 4-2 and 4-3 are affected, but does not indicate that page 4-3 will be removed in its entirety. In addition, the marked up Technical Specification pages show the new text on page 4-3 with notation that indicates that the text is to be inserted on page 4-2. It would have been better to show the new text on a separate page (without a page number) rather than on page 4-3 to avoid potential confusion.

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/
 Richard B. Ennis, Acting Project Manager
 Project Directorate I-2
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-354

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 11 to License No. NPF-57
 2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 8, 1998

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Executive Vice President-
Nuclear Business Unit
Public Service Electric & Gas
Company
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

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(TAC NO. MA0379)

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R B Ennis".

Richard B. Ennis, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No.111 to
License No. NPF-57
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

**Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Public Service Electric & Gas
Company**

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

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**Hope Creek Resident Inspector
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Sr. Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Department
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Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038**

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Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038**

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

ATLANTIC CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-354

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 111
License No. NPF-57

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment filed by the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) dated December 19, 1997, as supplemented March 6, 1998, 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 Technical Specifications 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:

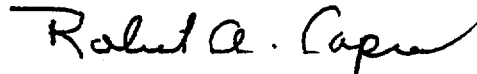
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(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 111, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated into the license. PSE&G shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, to be implemented within 60 days.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: May 8, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO.111

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57

DOCKET NO. 50-354

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "B" Environmental Protection Plan Technical Specifications with the attached pages.

Remove

page 4-2
page 4-3

Insert

page 4-2
-

4.2.2 Terrestrial Ecology Monitoring

PSE&G has completed the implementation of the Salt Drift Monitoring Program to assess the impacts of cooling tower salt drift on the environment in the HCGS vicinity. This study was completed by the submission of two reports: "Pre-operational Summary Report for Hope Creek Generating Station Salt Drift Monitoring Program, August 1984-December 1986" and "Operational Summary Report for Hope Creek Generating Station Salt Drift Monitoring Program, January 1987-March 1989". The pre-operational report was submitted to the NRC on April 30, 1987 (NLR-E87144) as an Appendix to the 1986 Annual Environmental Operating Report. The operational report was submitted to the NRC on October 10, 1989 (NLR-N89201).

The "Operational Summary Report" contained information that fulfilled the requirements of a final report, and therefore will be considered the "Final Report". This report discusses salt deposition data, native vegetation studies, comparison of estimated salt drift and deposition with actual data, environmental effects of salt drift and pre- and post-operational data comparison.

The study indicated that only minor, localized effects of cooling tower drift deposition are occurring. Higher deposition rates potentially attributable to the cooling tower were measured at only one location, which is on station property at a distance of 0.4 km southeast of the cooling tower. The salt deposition rate at this site is 113 mg/m²/month, which is well below the deposition levels that have been reported to cause vegetative damage of 10,000 mg/m²/year. Hope Creek Generating Station is surrounded by extensive areas of tidal salt marsh and the nearest uplands are located approximately three miles to the east, therefore no significant adverse impacts will occur as a result of cooling tower operation.

PSE&G has satisfied the commitments under this requirement. No further monitoring is required.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO.111 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 December 19, 1997, as supplemented March 6, 1998, the Public Service Electric & Gas Company (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS), Environmental Protection Plan Technical Specifications (EPPTSs). The requested changes would change the wording of Section 4.2.2, "Terrestrial Ecology Monitoring," of the EPPTSs to include completion of the Salt Drift Monitoring Program. The March 6, 1998, submittal provided clarifying information that did not change the initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination or expand the scope of the original Federal Register notice.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has proposed changes to Section 4.2.2 of the EPPTSs that reflect the completion of the Salt Drift Monitoring Program. The current Environmental Protection Plan Section 4.2.2 reads as follows:

"The applicant will implement the Salt Drift Monitoring Program to assess the impacts of cooling tower salt drift on the environment in the HCGS vicinity provided to NRC by letter dated March 28, 1984 from Robert L. Mittl, Public Service Electric & Gas Co., to A. Schwencer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The monitoring program shall commence one year prior to the onset of commercial operation of the HCGS and include low-power testing and operational data up to three years from receipt of license or until such earlier time that the licensee can demonstrate that the objectives of the study have been fulfilled. Annual monitoring reports shall be submitted to the NRC for review.

The licensee may make changes in the salt drift monitoring procedures without prior Commission approval unless the proposed change affects the program objectives described in the introduction to the Salt Drift Monitoring Program. Changes in the procedures, for example, changes which affect sampling frequency, location, gear, or replication, shall be recorded. Records shall describe the changes made, the reasons for making the changes, and a statement showing how continuity of the study will be affected. Any modifications or

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changes of the monitoring program, once initiated, shall be governed by the need to maintain consistency with previously used procedures so that direct comparisons of data are technically valid. Such modifications or changes shall be justified and supported by adequate comparative sampling programs or studies demonstrating the comparability of results or which provide a basis for making adjustments that would permit direct comparisons. The annual report should describe monitoring procedures and changes in such procedures made during the report period."

The licensee proposes to replace the current text with the following statements, which describe the Salt Drift Monitoring Program final reports and terminate the licensee's commitment to study the cooling tower salt drift phenomon:

"PSE&G has completed the implementation of the Salt Drift Monitoring Program to assess the impacts of cooling tower salt drift on the environment in the HCGS vicinity. This study was completed by the submission of two reports: "Pre-operational Summary Report for Hope Creek Generating Station Salt Drift Monitoring Program, August 1984-December 1986" and "Operational Summary Report for Hope Creek Generating Station Salt Drift Monitoring Program, January 1987 to March 1989". The pre-operational report was submitted to the NRC on April 30, 1987 (NLR-E87144) as an Appendix to the 1986 Annual Environmental Operating Report. The operational report was submitted to the NRC on October 10, 1989 (NLR-N89201).

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The study indicated that only minor, localized effects of cooling tower drift deposition are occurring. Higher deposition rates potentially attributable to the cooling tower were measured at only one location, which is on station property at a distance of 0.4 km southeast of the cooling tower. The salt deposition rate at this site is 113 mg/m²/month, which is well below the deposition levels that have been reported to cause vegetative damage of 10,000 mg/m²/year. Hope Creek Generating Station is surrounded by extensive areas of tidal salt marsh and the nearest uplands are located approximately three miles to the east, therefore no significant adverse impacts will occur as a result of cooling tower operation.

PSE&G has satisfied the commitments under this requirement. No further monitoring is required."

A March 28, 1984 letter to Albert Schwencer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, from Robert L. Mittl, Public Service Electric & Gas Co. delineated the requirements for the HCGS salt drift studies. The salt drift studies were required by the NRC as a condition of the HCGS construction permit in order to evaluate the effects of salt deposition from the HCGS cooling tower on the environment. The letter discussed reporting requirements for both preoperational and operational periods at HCGS. The letter also required a final report, that summarized the results of the salt drift studies for both periods. In lieu of a final report, the licensee has submitted a separate final report for each period. The HCGS preoperational salt drift study, performed

between August 1984 and December 1986, was submitted to NRC on April 30, 1987, as an Appendix to the 1986 Annual Environmental Operating Report. The HCGS operational salt drift study, performed between January 1987 and March 1989, was submitted to NRC on October 10, 1989.

The staff has reviewed both the preoperational and operational salt drift studies, and found that they satisfy the requirements outlined in the March 28, 1984 letter.

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 a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. 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 (63 FR 4321). 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: W. Gleaves

Date: May 8, 1998