

July 2, 2001

Mr. David A. Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK SAFETY AUXILIARY COOLING WATER SYSTEM PROBLEM
EXPERIENCED ON JUNE 22, 2001

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2001 to Mr. Miller, regarding the June 22, 2001, event at Hope Creek involving an improper setpoint of a relief valve on a component cooled by the 'A' safety auxiliaries cooling system (SACS). This improper setpoint caused the relief valve to inadvertently open, draining some water from this closed loop cooling system before the problem was identified and isolated. Your letter raised a number of good questions about this event, addressing a number of the considerations that both PSEG Nuclear and the NRC were reviewing at that time. As part of our baseline inspection program, we will consider your questions while examining this event and PSEG Nuclear's planned corrective actions.

We intend to document the scope of our review and our findings in this matter in the next resident inspection report. When that inspection report is issued, we will provide you with a copy of that report. In the course of this review, if the inspectors identify indications of wrongdoing, the matter will be dispositioned through the agency process for handling matters involving staff-suspected wrongdoing.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects
Region I

Mr. David A. Lochbaum

2

Distribution:

H. Miller, RA/J. Wiggins, DRA
R. Jenkins, RI EDO Coordinator
J. Schoppy, SRI
C. Cahill, RI
E. Adensam, NRR
R. Correia, NRR
R. Ennis, NRR
A. Blough, DRP
G. Meyers, DRP
R. Barkley, DRP
T. Haverkamp, DRP

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 4.0\PDF Output\letterto.wpd

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it **will** be released to the Public.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI:DRP		RI:DRP		RI:DRS		RI:RA			
NAME	Meyer/RSB for		Blough/AB		Lanning/WL		Miller/JW for			
DATE	07/2/01		07/02/01		07/02/01		07/02/01			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY