

DEC 24 2001

LRN-01-0435
LCR S01-08



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

**REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY CHANGE TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION 3/4.7.4
SERVICE WATER SYSTEM
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT NO. 1
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-70
DOCKET NO. 50-272**

The purpose of this letter is to request that a previous submittal by PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) for a change to the Salem Technical Specifications (TSs) under exigent circumstances (letter LRN-01-0412, dated December 10, 2001) be re-categorized. At this time, an emergency situation exists, per 10 CFR 50.91(a)(5), in that failure to act in a timely way would result in shutdown of Salem Unit 1. The initial submittal, supplemented by letter LRN-01-0430, dated December 21, 2001, requested a one-time extension of the time allowed for operation with one nuclear service water header out of service from 72 hours to 10 days. The purpose of the request was to provide adequate time to repair a leak in the service water header piping. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91, a notice was published in the Federal Register on December 17, 2001 (66FR242 64996-64998). Pursuant to the requirements of 10CFR50.91(b)(1), a copy of this submittal has been sent to the State of New Jersey.

Description of Emergency Circumstances

A leak of the service water piping was identified on November 30, 2001. The estimated leak rate at that time was approximately 3 gpm. PSEG immediately initiated corrective actions, including preparation of a request for an amendment of the Salem Technical Specifications, recognizing that exigent circumstances existed. The leakage increased to approximately 25 gpm by December 21, 2001. On December 22, 2001 the measured leakage from the 12 service water nuclear supply header again increased to approximately 110 gpm. The leakage remains less than the limiting leak rate (200 gpm) for continued service water system operability. Due to the rate of increase in the service water leak rate, PSEG does not believe that pursuit of the subject amendment on an exigent basis supports continued operation of Salem Unit 1.

PSEG has completed preparations to effect the necessary repairs. Material and equipment are available and staged. Current plans are for Salem Unit 1 to enter TS

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Action statement TS 3.7.4.1 on December 26, 2001 to begin this repair evolution. Based upon the current Action Statement, the 12 service water nuclear supply header must be restored within 72 hours or the Unit must be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

The information provided in this letter does not alter the conclusions reached in the 10CFR50.92 No Significant Hazards analysis previously submitted.

Should you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Paul Duke at (856) 339-1466.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Carlin', written over a horizontal line.

J. Carlin
Vice President - Nuclear Reliability

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C Mr. H. Miller, Administrator - Region I
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