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Gentlemen:

**2001 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT  
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

The attached 2001 Annual Environmental Operating Report is hereby submitted pursuant to Subsection 5.4.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan (Non-radiological) for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The Environmental Protection Plan is Appendix B to Facility Operation License DPR-70 and DPR-75 (Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabor Salamon".

Gabor Salamon  
Manager- Nuclear Safety & Licensing

/dkh  
Attachment (1)

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C            Mr. Hubert J. Miller, Administrator - Region I  
              U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
              475 Allendale Road  
              King of Prussia, PA 19406

              Mr. R. Fretz, Licensing Project Manager - Salem  
              U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
              One White Flint North  
              11555 Rockville Pike  
              Mail Stop 8B2  
              Rockville, MD 20852

              USNRC Senior Resident Inspector - Salem  
              Mail Code X24

              Mr. K. Tosch, Manager, IV  
              Bureau of Nuclear Engineering  
              P.O. Box 415  
              Trenton, NJ 08625

**2001 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT  
(NON-RADIOLOGICAL)  
January 1 through December 31, 2001**

**SALEM GENERATION STATION  
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311  
OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75**

**PSEG NUCLEAR LLC  
P.O. BOX 236  
HANCOCKS BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 08038**

**APRIL 2002**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This 2001 Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) is submitted in accordance with Section 5.4.1 of the Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), Non-radiological (Appendix B to Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311, respectively).

This is the 13th AEOR submitted under the EPP and covers Salem Unit No. 1 and Salem Unit No. 2 for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2001. During 2001, Salem Unit No. 1 and 2 generated a combined total of 17,227,026 megawatt-hours of net electrical energy.

As required by Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP, we have included summaries and analyses of the results of all required environmental protection activities. This information is described in Section 2.0. Section 3.0 addresses the issues of EPP compliance. Changes to station design or operation and the review for potentially significant unreviewed environmental questions are addressed in Section 4.0. Unusual and/or important environmental events are discussed in Section 5.0.

## 2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 AQUATIC MONITORING ISSUES

Subsection 4.2.1 of the EPP references the Clean Water Act as a mechanism for protecting aquatic biota through water quality monitoring. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) relies on the State of New Jersey, acting under the authority of the Clean Water Act, to insure applicable requirements for aquatic monitoring are implemented. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is the State's regulatory agency.

The NJDEP requires as part of the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit program that effluent monitoring be performed, with the results summarized and submitted monthly on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. The monitoring is intended to determine compliance with the effluent limitations of the station's NJPDES permit (No. NJ0005622). We have reviewed the DMRs corresponding to the 2001 AEOR reporting period and have determined that no significant deviations have occurred. We have observed no evidence of trends towards damage to the environment. Copies of monthly DMRs are routinely sent to USNRC's Document Control Desk and additional copies are available upon request.

On June 29, 2001, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued a Final New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Permit that authorizes the continued discharge of cooling water and other effluents from the Salem Generating Station to the Delaware River. The Permit contains conditions and limitations for continued compliance with the federal and state Clean Water Act (CWA) and the NJDEP's regulations. The Permit includes the NJDEP resolution of comments presented by PSEG, regulatory agencies, environmental groups and the public.

The NJPDES Permit retains substantially similar effluent limitations and conditions, including chemical-specific requirements and system operational requirements. The thermal variance for Salem under Section 316(a) of the CWA is renewed, with continuation of the existing thermal effluent limitations applicable to Salem's current cooling water system. The NJDEP again determined that the thermal discharge is expected to assure the protection and propagation of the balanced indigenous population of aquatic resources in the Delaware Estuary and has included requirements for the renewal of the Section 316(a) variance in connection with the next renewal application for the Station's NJPDES permit. A reassessment of the factors considered by the NJDEP is required during the next NJPDES permit renewal.

The NJDEP also determined that the operation of the Station's existing intake structure (which incorporates the flow limitation and modified intake screens as required by the 1994 permit), in conjunction with additional studies being proposed, reflects Best Technology Available (BTA) to address impacts under Section 316(b) of the CWA. The permit requires an integrated study of the feasibility of "Multi-Sensory Hybrid Intake Protection Technology" including any combination of sound, light repellent/diversion, and air bubble curtain technologies as well as ancillary effects of those technologies. Specific biological studies include the requirement to evaluate the effects of the fish return system and impingement sampling on fish survival, the relative vulnerability for specific Representative Important Species (RIS), and the fish return trough velocity compared with sampling trough velocity. The results of these evaluations and any proposed study or redesign of the fish return and sampling systems will be submitted to the NJDEP who will then determine if new Permit requirements are appropriate.

The Permit requires the continued implementation of the wetland restoration/preservation program and requires the acquisition and preservation of additional lands for any acreage that may be needed to offset acreage deemed "failed" by the NJDEP based on established restoration criteria, as well as development of Management Plans for the replacement acreage. The Permit

requires continued operation and maintenance of the eight installed fish ladders, continued stocking of impoundments at fish ladder sites, and construction of two additional fish ladders in New Jersey.

The Permit requires continuation of the extensive biological monitoring program in the estuary, at the Station, and for the fish ladders and the wetland restoration sites. The Permit also requires expansion of the existing estuarine and fish ladder monitoring programs, continuation and expansion of the station intake monitoring (impingement and entrainment) including optimization of sampling frequency and sampling methodology, an evaluation of the appropriateness of the RIS, continued monitoring relative to the wetland restoration activities (detrital and fish) and other special monitoring studies required by the NJDEP. The NJDEP is also requiring that PSEG Nuclear conduct supplemental analyses of Station losses using additional model analyses, alternative RIS, enhanced uncertainty analysis, different variables, customized intake protection strategies, and characterization of loss estimate uncertainty. The Final Permit also requires an evaluation of the hydrodynamics in the intake area to assess the flow field, potential vortices, and bathymetrically induced eddys. In addition, the Final Permit contains funding provisions for construction and installation of artificial reefs.

The Permit requires the establishment of an Estuary Enhancement Program Advisory Committee (EEPAC) that provides similar expertise previously provided by the Monitoring Advisory Committee and the Management Plan Advisory Committee in a combined committee to provide coordinated technical advice relative to both the management plans and biological monitoring program. The EEPAC will include representatives of regulatory agencies, independent scientists, and county governments and will meet at least twice per year with at least one meeting to include a tour of wetland restoration sites.

Additionally, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) renewed the Docket Decision that incorporates Salem into the Comprehensive Plan for the Delaware River Basin. The revised Docket Decision includes no significant modifications and will expire in September 2026.

While the USNRC relies on the State of New Jersey and the NJDEP for protection of the water quality, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) maintains regulatory authority with respect to certain migratory threatened and endangered aquatic species. As required by Amendments 129 and 108 to the Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75 and the Section 7 Consultation, Biological Opinion, Salem Generating Station conducted inspections of the circulating water intake trash bars at least every two hours during the 2001 sea turtle season. In 2001, no shortnose sturgeon were recovered from the circulating water intake trash

bars. A dead and decomposing sea turtle was recovered from the Circulating Water System (CWS) Intake trash racks at the Salem Generating Station. The sea turtle was recovered on August 31, 2001. The sea turtle was identified as a Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and was missing the right front flipper and most of the right side. The remaining flippers were checked for tags but none were present. The sea turtle was photographed, measured, marked with a black "X" on the carapace, triple bagged and placed in the trash as per the direction from the NMFS. Due to the badly decomposed condition, the death of this sea turtle was clearly not related to plant operation. The sea turtle was disposed of in accordance with the terms and conditions of the current Incidental Take Statement.

The appropriate notifications were performed to report the impingement of this species.

## 2.2 TERRESTRIAL ISSUES

PSEG NUCLEAR continues to monitor the osprey population in a joint effort with the NJDEP.

## 3.0 EPP COMPLIANCE STATUS

### 3.1 EPP NONCOMPLIANCES

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of EPP noncompliances and the corrective actions taken to remedy them. No significant environmental impacts attributable to the operation of Salem Generating Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2 were observed during 2001.

### 3.2 REVIEW

Subsection 5.1 of the EPP for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, requires that an independent review of compliance with the EPP be maintained and made available for inspection. The EPP was reviewed as part of the Self-Assessment Program in 1999.

## 4.0 CHANGES IN STATION DESIGN OR OPERATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.1 of the EPP for Salem Unit Nos. 1 and 2, station design changes and operation performance of tests or experiments, for the AEOR covered time period, were reviewed for potential environmental impact.

None of the recommended changes posed a potential to significantly affect the environment, therefore, none involved an unreviewed environmental question or a change in the EPP.

## 5.0 NONROUTINE REPORTS

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of all nonroutine reports (submitted in accordance with Subsection 5.4.2 of the EPP) be included as part of the Annual Environmental Operating Report. No environmentally related nonroutine reports were submitted to the USNRC in 2001.

Salem Generating Station experienced no unusual or important events that indicated or could have resulted in a "significant environmental impact" during the 2001 reporting period.