

June 20, 2002

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Chief Nuclear Officer & President
PSEG Nuclear LLC - X04
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM
NRC REGULATIONS FOR FIRE AREAS 1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B,
AND 1(2)-FA-AB-84C (TAC NOS. MB5052 AND MB5053)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

By letter dated May 1, 2002, PSEG Nuclear LLC submitted requests for exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix R, requirements for Fire Areas 1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B, and 1(2)-FA-AB-84C at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Salem). The exemption requests were submitted in response to your resolution of Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System issues at Salem.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is reviewing your requests for exemption and has determined that additional information is necessary in order to complete its evaluation. We discussed the enclosed request for additional information with your staff during a telephone call on June 14, 2002. During the call, you agreed to respond to this letter within 45 days from the date of this letter. If circumstances result in the need to revise the target date, please contact me at (301) 415-1324, understanding that a delay in your response is likely to adversely affect our review schedule.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM NRC REGULATIONS FOR FIRE AREAS 1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B, AND 1(2)-FA-AB-84C (TAC NOS. MB5052 AND MB5053)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

By letter dated May 1, 2002, PSEG Nuclear LLC submitted requests for exemption from Title 10 -of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix R, requirements for Fire Areas 1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B, and 1(2)-FA-AB-84C at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Salem). The exemption requests were submitted in response to your resolution of Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System issues at Salem.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is reviewing your requests for exemption and has determined that additional information is necessary in order to complete its evaluation. We discussed the enclosed request for additional information with your staff during a telephone call on June 14, 2002. During the call, you agreed to respond to this letter within 45 days from the date of this letter. If circumstances result in the need to revise the target date, please contact me at (301) 415-1324, understanding that a delay in your response is likely to adversely affect our review schedule.

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DATE	6/20/02	6/20/02	6/20/02

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR FIRE AREAS

1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B, AND 1(2)-FA-AB-84C

SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2

By letter dated May 1, 2002, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG) submitted requests for exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Appendix R, requirements for Fire Areas 1(2)-FA-AB-64B, 1(2)-FA-AB-84B, and 1(2)-FA-AB-84C at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (Salem). The exemption requests were submitted in response to PSEG's resolution of Electrical Raceway Fire Barrier System issues at Salem. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed its initial acceptance review of the May 1, 2002, exemption request, and has determined that additional information is necessary in order to conduct a review of PSEG's request.

- (1) PSEG needs to submit a request for exemption, with the supporting technical justification, from the technical requirements of Section III.G.3 of Appendix R relating to the lack of complete area-wide automatic fire detection in fire areas 1(2)-FA-AB-64B and 1(2)-FA-AB-84. The provision in Generic Letter 86-10, cited in the licensee's submittal, that allows licensees to perform an engineering evaluation to assess the acceptability of partial detection is limited in applicability to Section III.G.2 fire areas only, and is not applicable to Section III.G.3 fire areas.

In order for the NRC staff to evaluate whether application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule according to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), PSEG will need to provide the following information:

- (2) For each of the six fire areas identified in the exemption request, PSEG needs to provide the quantities, types, and location of the in-situ combustibles present in each area.
- (3) Concerning the manual operator actions required to achieve and maintain hot standby in each of the subject fire areas, PSEG needs to provide: (1) a description of the manual actions; (2) the number of operations personnel required for the manual actions; (3) the location(s) where the actions are performed; (4) a time line for the completion of each of the manual actions; and (5) a description of how the time line for each manual action was validated.
- (4) Provide the locations and types of fire protection systems or features provided (if any) for the cables or equipment associated with reactor coolant inventory control, decay heat removal, process monitoring, and support functions identified in the six fire areas that were not included in the submittal.

ENCLOSURE

PSEG Nuclear LLC

Salem Nuclear Generating Station,
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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