

OCT 28 2002

LR-N02-0375



U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

**REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
10CFR 55.59 REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM SCHEDULE
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES DPR-70 AND DPR-75
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG) hereby requests an exemption from the requirements of 10CFR55.59(a)(1) and 10CFR55.59(c)(1) regarding the requirement for the Licensed Operator Requalification program to be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed two years, and upon conclusion to be promptly followed, pursuant to a continuous schedule, by successive requalification programs. This exemption request is for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. A copy of this submittal has been sent to the State of New Jersey.

PSEG proposes to reset the training cycle to coincide with the calendar year. The schedular exemption requested would extend the period for the current cycle of the requalification program from October 3, 2002, to January 9, 2003. The next requalification period would begin on January 14, 2003, and end on December 31, 2004, with subsequent requalification periods remaining on a January to December schedule cycle. Similar exemptions for schedular change have been approved for South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's V.C. Summer Nuclear Station on May 29, 2001 (TAC No. MB1170) and Carolina Power and Light's Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant on September 10, 2001 (TAC No. MB1045).

The purpose of this schedule change is to permit the alignment of the Salem requalification program with the Hope Creek program. In addition, Salem Unit 1 is currently in a Refueling Outage that is scheduled to be completed by early November, 2002. Our current plans are to conduct a Special Training Segment ending on 1/9/03. The segment, which will be considered to be Transitional should the exemption be granted and the calendar reset, will provide 3 days of training for each crew, and will include both simulator and classroom training. Among other objectives, we will address any exam weaknesses that arose from the recent Annual Exam; and we will also be providing Human Performance Training. This proposed change will not affect the schedule for the required written exams.

PSEG is requesting a one time exemption that would extend the current requalification cycle to 27 months which is outside of the 24 month cycle required by 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) and (c)(1). This exemption request deals only with extending the current requalification cycle. The granting of the request would not endanger life or property nor would it be contrary to the public interest. Granting of this exemption will not reduce the effectiveness of the current Operator Requalification Program for Salem Station. The affected licensed operators will continue to

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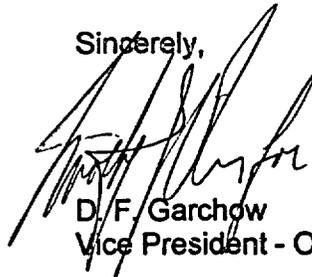
demonstrate and possess the required levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to safely operate the plant throughout the transitional period via continuation of the current licensed operator requalification program

PSEG requests granting of the proposed exemption promptly so that the special training segment can be instituted.

No new commitments are made in this submittal.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. John Nagle at 856-339-3171.

Sincerely,



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