

December 11, 2002

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

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY RESPONSE FOR SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB4573 AND MB4574)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On March 18, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10, Section 50.54(f), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* if they are unable to provide the information or they cannot meet the requested completion dates.

You provided your 15-day Bulletin response by letter dated April 1, 2002. Subsequently, in letters dated May 15, 2002, you provided additional information in response to the Bulletin. The two letters provided information concerning Salem Nuclear Generating Station (Salem), Unit No. 2, and the boric acid inspection program at Salem required by Bulletin 2002-01, Item 3, to be submitted within 60 days of the date of the Bulletin. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information, and has concluded that your plant does not appear to have conditions similar to those which led to the degradation at Davis-Besse. However, the staff recently issued questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 60-day response in order to complete its full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01.

Sincerely,

/RA for VNurses/

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

cc: See next page

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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

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