



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Bradley M. Campbell  
Commissioner

James E. McGreevey  
Governor

Division of Environmental Safety, Health  
and Analytical Programs  
Radiation Protection Programs  
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering  
PO Box 415  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0415  
Tel (609) 984-7700  
Fax (609) 984-7513

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

April 4, 2003

Subject: PSEG Nuclear LLC License Change Request H02-01: Relaxation of  
Secondary Containment Operability Requirements and Elimination of  
Filtration, Recirculation, Ventilation System Charcoal Filters.

Dear Sir:

The New Jersey Bureau of Nuclear Engineering has completed its review of PSEG Nuclear LLC License Change Request H02-01 dated June 28, 2002. The request seeks to revise the definition of core alteration, relax the secondary containment operability requirements, and revise the LOCA dose calculation in light of the Alternate Source Term (AST). This change, as stated by PSEG Nuclear LLC, reduces refueling outage time. AST provides the means for the change, according to PSEG Nuclear LLC.

According to our review, the central issue involves the trade-off between saving time during outages and potentially releasing more iodine than would have been released if the FRVS charcoal filters were operating. Assuming that the new alternate source term properly describes the latest accident behavior in reactor accidents, we still question eliminating a part of a system that removed 99.9% of the iodine generated post accident and replacing it with one that releases 4.85% of the iodine.

The other significant change is the opening of the secondary containment so refueling outage time is reduced. Allowing the equipment hatch to remain open will certainly reduce outage time; however, the trade-off is a direct release pathway that bypasses containment if a fuel-handling accident occurs.

The loss of secondary containment and the potential reduction of filtration would reduce the mitigation of the spent fuel pool Design Basis Accident. This change increases the

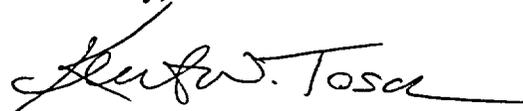
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risk of an unmonitored, unfiltered release to the environment. Certainly the safety margin has been reduced. It seems imprudent to have an open pathway with reduced filtration and based on AST. If there were a fueling handling accident under this analysis, could PSEG physically secure containment and protect the health and safety of the public?

In light of the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, it would be best to wait until the NRC analysis on containment operability is released before approving this request.

Therefore, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection requests that the FRVS charcoal filters remain operational when required and that PSEG conduct a full risk analysis for securing the equipment hatch during a fuel-handling accident. If you wish to discuss this further, please contact Dennis Zannoni or me at (609) 984-7700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent W. Tosch", written over a horizontal line.

Kent Tosch, Manager  
NJ DEP  
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering

C: George Wunder, NRC  
Gabe Salamon, PSEG Nuclear LLC  
Robert Bores, NRC  
Jill Lipoti, NJDEP  
Dennis Zannoni, NJDEP