

May 30, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management

FROM: Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager, Section 2 /RA/
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 8, 2003, MEETING WITH PSEG NUCLEAR, LLC
AND GENERAL ELECTRIC NUCLEAR ENERGY, REGARDING HOPE
CREEK GENERATING STATION PROPOSED EXTENDED POWER
UPRATE (TAC NO. MB8905)

On May 8, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff met with representatives of PSEG Nuclear, LLC, the licensee for the Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek), and with General Electric Nuclear Energy (GE) to discuss plans for the Hope Creek extended power uprate (EPU). The licensee provided an overview of the Hope Creek EPU plans and the schedule for the various submittals.

The licensee stated that PSEG will request a 15% increase from the original licensed power level of 3293 MWt. This would result in a licensed power level of 3787MWt. The licensee plans to implement the power uprate in stages. An approximate 10% power uprate would be implemented in 2004, with the remaining 5% being achieved in subsequent operating cycles. The licensee plans to use the GE constant pressure power uprate topical report for non-fuel-dependent evaluations, and to use the EPU license topical reports for fuel-dependent evaluations. The licensee stated that they would use the guidance provided in the staff's Review Standard for Extended Power Uprates. The licensee also stated that they were trying to improve their submittals by reviewing requests for additional information that the staff had issued to previous applicants for EPU.

The licensee stated that their evaluation of the power uprate covered the areas of nuclear steam supply system, fuel, balance of plant, and environmental concerns. The uprate will involve modifications to the low-pressure and high-pressure turbines, the turbine moisture separators, and to the feedwater heater and turbine moisture separator level controls. No changes to the safety relief valves or condensate system will be required. The 15% uprate includes the 1.4% uprate which was already approved by amendment in 2000.

Hope Creek currently has a mixed core of Westinghouse and GE 9B fuel. They plan to transition to a full GE 14 core over three reload cycles. The staff noted that GE does not have an approved topical report covering the introduction of new fuel. The licensee stated that PSEG personnel have been qualified by Westinghouse to use Westinghouse reload methods.

Critical power calculation for the first transition core will be performed using the GEXL critical power correlation for SVEA-96+ fuel. The licensee will do an independent statistical comparison using Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) proprietary test data. The licensee also stated that

they could not submit the actual test data on the docket, but that they would work with the staff to provide all required information. The staff noted that any information used as the basis for approving a license amendment must be docketed. Westinghouse will perform independent reviews on the cycle-specific Hope Creek core designs done by PSEG.

The licensee presented an application schedule in which the GEXL correlation submittal would be made in August 2003, followed by the EPU amendment request in September 2003. The amendment request for the transition to GE 14 fuel would be submitted in October 2003, and the cycle-specific reload analyses would not be ready until February 2004. In order to implement the amendment request for the next fuel cycle, the safety evaluation would have to be complete by May 2004, in order to present it to the ACRS in June 2004. The staff informed the licensee that their requested schedule is very ambitious. The staff will need the cycle-specific analyses in order to complete much of its review. This would allow only three to four months to complete the safety evaluation for a power uprate coincident with a fuel transition. The staff informed the licensee that it would not make any determinations about schedule or feasibility of the Hope Creek EPU until PSEG submits an application.

A list of those in attendance is provided as Attachment 1. The licensee's presentation slides are provided as Attachment 2.

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