

9 July 2004

Kathleen Pennell
26 Edgewood Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Dear Kathleen Pennell,

I am responding to your e-mail to Hub Miller dated June 21st, 2004 in which you requested that the PSEG Salem nuclear power plants be shut down. The NRC has received several letters pertaining to that subject from Mr. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists. We are in the process of preparing a detailed response to those letters. When we respond to Mr. Lochbaum, we will forward a copy of our response to you.

In the meantime, please understand that the NRC closely monitors the performance of the PSEG nuclear power plants. We maintain a cadre of four full-time inspectors at those plants, and those inspectors provide day-to-day inspection of plant operations. In addition, those inspection activities are supplemented throughout the year by regional specialist inspections. Due to the performance issues identified at the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants, the NRC has taken additional steps related to the oversight of these plants including: NRC management attention has been substantially increased; special inspections have been conducted; and an in-depth review of the work environment has been performed.

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns to us. We will forward the above-mentioned response to you in the near future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eugene Cobey, Chief
Projects Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects