

9 July 2004

Mr. Norm Cohen  
UNPLUG Salem Campaign  
321 Barr Avenue  
Linwood, NJ 08221

Dear Norm Cohen,

I am responding to your e-mail to Hub Miller and Randy Blough dated July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in which you expressed your disappointment with the NRC's apparent lack of response to Mr. David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists in regard to his concerns about the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants. As you know, Mr. Lochbaum has provided the NRC with a large amount of information based upon a significant amount of analysis of the issues at these plants. As such it warrants a thorough review and evaluation on our part, which is currently in progress. 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