

December 23, 2004

Mr. A. Christopher Bakken, III  
President & Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear - X15  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - EVALUATION OF  
REQUEST TO UTILIZE 1998 EDITION WITH 2000 ADDENDA OF THE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BOILER AND  
PRESSURE VESSEL CODE FOR THE SECOND 10-YEAR INTERVAL (TAC  
NO. MC4987)

Dear Mr. Bakken:

By letter dated October 29, 2004, as supplemented by letter dated November 29, 2004, PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval to use the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI 1998 Edition up to and including the 2000 Addenda for the Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek). PSEG's request was made pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). PSEG requested to use the later edition of the ASME Code for the remainder of the second 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) interval, which is scheduled to be completed by December 12, 2007, for all ASME Code, Section XI (Class 1, 2, and 3), Subsections IWB, IWC, IWD, and IWF, systems, structures, and components contained in IWX-2500-1.

PSEG stated that use of the later edition of the ASME Code will ensure a greater degree of implementation consistency between all stations (referring to Hope Creek and Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2), decrease costs associated with surveillance procedure revisions, reduce opportunities for inadvertent human errors due to differences between code requirements and lessen administrative burdens and complexities associated with maintaining multiple ISI program long-term plans.

In its October 29, 2004, submittal, PSEG stated that they will comply with the following imposed additional requirements, as discussed in *Federal Register* Notice 69 FR 58804, dated October 1, 2004:

Exam Category B-D, items B3.40, B3.60, B3.120, and B3.140 for the use of ASME [Code] 1998 Edition for the inspection of Nozzle Inner Radii.

Exam Category B-G-2, item B7.80 for the use of ASME [Code] 1995 Edition to perform VT-1 of CRD [control rod drive] housing bolts, studs and nuts when disassembled.

Exam Category B-K, item B10.10 for the use of ASME [Code] 1995 Edition to examine welded attachments on at least one vessel in each group.

Additionally, in response to NRC staff questions, PSEG confirmed in its November 29, 2004, letter that it will comply with the additional requirements that the NRC has imposed for the use of the 1998 Edition, with 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code as discussed in 69 FR 58804:

PSEG will not use the provisions of paragraph IWA-4340 of the 2000 addenda with regard to mitigating defects by modification. When using the 1998 Edition through 2000 Addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code, PSEG will comply with the provisions in IWA-4540(c), 1998 Edition of Section XI, for pressure testing Class 1, 2, and 3 mechanical joints.

PSEG further stated that ASME Code Section XI Subsections IWE and IWL will continue to be performed in accordance with PSEG's previously submitted and NRC-approved relief requests for IWE and IWL for Hope Creek. The NRC's safety evaluation report of that relief request is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under accession number ML003720636.

The limitations identified above are consistent with the limitations imposed on the implementation of the ASME Code up to the 2003 Addenda, as incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), the NRC approves the licensee's request to use the 1998 Edition through the 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI, with the limitations discussed above, for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval for Hope Creek.

If you have any questions, please contact G. Edward Miller, at 301-415-2481.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Darrell J. Roberts, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

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Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

Mr. John T. Carlin  
Vice President - Nuclear Assessment  
PSEG Nuclear - N10  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Patrick S. Walsh  
Vice President - Eng/Tech Support  
PSEG Nuclear - N28  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Michael Brothers  
Vice President - Site Operations  
PSEG Nuclear - N10  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. James A. Hutton  
Plant Manager  
PSEG Nuclear - X15  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Ms. Christina L. Perino  
Director - Licensing & Nuclear Safety  
PSEG Nuclear - N21  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire  
PSEG Nuclear - N21  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Ms. R. A. Kankus  
Joint Owner Affairs  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
Nuclear Group Headquarters KSA1-E  
200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Lower Alloways Creek Township  
c/o Mary O. Henderson, Clerk  
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Asst. Director  
Radiation Protection Programs  
NJ Department of Environmental  
Protection and Energy  
CN 415  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Brian Beam  
Board of Public Utilities  
2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Resident Inspector  
Hope Creek Generating Station  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Drawer 0509  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038