

February 8, 2005

Mr. William Levis
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PSEG Nuclear LLC - N09
P. O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

RI-2003-A-0138

Dear Mr. Levis:

On December 10, 2003, the NRC Region I Field Office of the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) initiated an investigation (OI Case 1-2003-058) on December 10, 2003, to determine if Nuclear Equipment Operators (NEOs) at the Hope Creek Generating Station gave or received inappropriate aid during written examinations or if personnel conducting on-the-job training (OJT) for NEOs signed qualification records without verifying that they had the requisite knowledge in the area of the sign-off during PSEG Nuclear Systems Approach to Training (SAT)-based training conducted between March 2001 and March 2003.

OI interviewed each of the NEO class members as well as the supervisor responsible for the NEO Training Course, the lead instructor for the NEO training program, and another NEO classroom trainer who also participated as an OJT evaluator for the class in question. The results of the interviews did not provide evidence to substantiate that any misconduct took place during the NEO written examinations or the OJT program.

OI's review of the written examinations did not reveal a pattern of irregularities or cheating and there was no evidence to indicate any specific instances of cheating that would call into question the validity of the written results of NEO written exams. Although OI found during review of the qualification cards that a considerable number of signatures were obtained on specific days, which could potentially call into question the validity of the signatures of the trainers and evaluators, ultimately the evidence did not indicate any specific instance of falsification or deficiency that would invalidate the NEO qualifications.

Based on the evidence developed during this investigation, including review of PSEG's investigation, OI did not substantiate that NEOs gave or received aid during written examinations or that personnel conducting OJT signed certification cards without verifying that the NEOs had the requisite knowledge in the area of the sign-off during SAT-based training.

Please note that final NRC documents, such as the OI report discussed above, may be made available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) subject to redaction of information appropriate under the FOIA. Requests under the FOIA should be made in accordance with 10 CFR 9.23, Requests for Records, a copy of which is enclosed for your information.

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Also, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if any, will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Mr. E. Cobey of my staff at (610) 337-5171.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:
10 CFR 9.23, Requests for Records

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