

March 16, 2005

Mr. Bradley J. Erbes  
Manager, Systems Engineering  
GE Nuclear Energy  
175 Curtner Avenue M/C 747  
San Jose, CA 95125

SUBJECT: PSEG NUCLEAR LLC, REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FOR HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Erbes:

By letter dated January 12, 2005, PSEG Nuclear LLC submitted an affidavit dated November 30, 2004, executed by you, requesting that the information contained in the following document be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 2, Section 2.390:

GENE-0000-0029-6193-01-R1, ELLLA Backup Stability Protection Evaluation for  
Hope Creek Cycle 13, November 2004

A nonproprietary copy of this document has been placed in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Public Document Room and added to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Public Electronic Reading Room.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- (1) This information is of the type typically held in confidence by General Electric, and is in fact so held.
- (2) The information is being transmitted to the NRC in confidence.
- (3) The information has not been publically disclosed, nor is it available in public sources.
- (4) The information discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by General Electric's competitors constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies.
- (5) The information, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.
- (6) Public disclosure of this information would cause General Electric to lose its competitive advantage if its competitors were able to use the results to normalize or verify their own process or if they were able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You should also understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1427.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Daniel S. Collins, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

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

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Daniel S. Collins, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
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