

April 15, 2005

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

SUBJECT: SENIOR REACTOR AND REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS -  
HOPE CREEK

Dear Mr. Levis:

In telephone conversations on April 6, 2005, between Mr. Steven Dennis, Examiner/Inspector, and Mr. James G. Reed, Operations Training Manager, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Hope Creek, during the week of November 28, 2005.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, the NRC will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 9, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations periodically during production and finally during the week of October 31, 2005.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 by June 1, 2005. Any delay in receiving the required reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination

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date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on June 30, 2006. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at [SLF@NRC.GOV](mailto:SLF@NRC.GOV); and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Reed has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Dennis at (610) 337-5048, or me at (610) 337-5183.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Richard J. Conte, Chief  
Operational Safety Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-354  
License No. NPF-57

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