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April 25, 2005

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subject: Hope Creek Generating Station
Docket No. 50-354
License Change Request H04-06

PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG) submitted the subject change request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on October 1, 2004. The proposed changes would eliminate certain Technical Specifications and associated Surveillance Requirements pertaining to the Primary Containment Hydrogen Recombiners and the Primary Containment Hydrogen/Oxygen Concentration Analyzers and Monitor Channels.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Nuclear Engineering (BNE) reviewed the request in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.91(b). We have the following comments.

As part of the request to delete the applicable Technical Specifications, PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) has made regulatory commitments to maintain both a Primary Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System capable of diagnosing beyond design basis accidents and an Oxygen Monitoring System capable of verifying the status of the inert Primary Containment.

These commitments are in accordance with the following sections of the "Notice of Availability of Model Application Concerning Technical Specification Improvement To Eliminate Hydrogen Recombiner Requirement, and Relax the Hydrogen and Oxygen Monitor Requirements for Light Water Reactors Using the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process" as described in the September 25, 2003 Federal Register (68 FR 55416): 1) Applicability; 2) Model Safety

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Evaluation (SE), Section 3.2, Hydrogen Monitoring Equipment; and 3) Model Safety Evaluation (SE), Section 3.3, Oxygen Monitoring Equipment

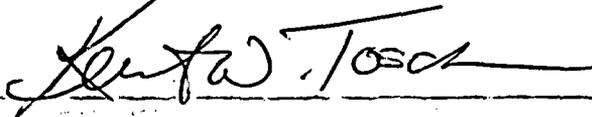
PSEG has made no commitment to retain any requirements pertaining to the Primary Containment Hydrogen Recombiners although Model SE Section 3.1, Hydrogen Recombiners states that "requirements related to hydrogen recombiners no longer meet any of the four criteria in 10 CFR 50.36(c)(2)(ii) for retention in TS and may be relocated to other licensee-controlled documents for all plants."

The BNE recommends that the NRC require PSEG to make a commitment to relocate the TS requirements for maintaining the Primary Containment Hydrogen Recombiners to other licensee-controlled documents as PSEG has done for the Primary Containment Hydrogen and Oxygen Monitoring Equipment. By making such a commitment, PSEG would then be in compliance with the NRC staff's Model SE position. In addition, this commitment would satisfy Section 9 (Precedent) of LCR-H04-06, which states that "PSEG is not proposing variations or deviations from the TS changes described in Revision 1 to TSTF-447 or the NRC staff's model SE published on September 25, 2003 (68 FR 55416)."

Although the above referenced Applicability section states the licensee need not provide details about the designs or procedures when making the regulatory commitments, the BNE considers the program details that will be utilized by PSEG to ensure the operability and functionality of the Oxygen/Hydrogen Monitoring Equipment and the Hydrogen Recombiners to be essential in providing the confidence that this equipment will be available to analyze and mitigate the consequences of an accident in order to protect the health and safety of the public. Therefore, the BNE requests that these details be provided by PSEG for review prior to the NRC approving the proposed TS changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Humphreys at (609) 984-7469.

Sincerely,



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