

APR 28 2006

LR-N06-0195



U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, DC 20555-001

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**2005 SUMMARY OF REVISED REGULATORY COMMITMENTS  
SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONS  
SALEM UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) process for managing Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) commitments and associated NRC notifications, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG) submits this correspondence to discuss a commitment that was changed and not reported by other means during 2005.

**Salem Unit 1 and 2 Technical Specifications (TS) Amendments 232 and 213, respectively.**

Salem Unit 1 and 2 TS Amendments 232 and 213, respectively, approved the deletion of TS 3/4.1.3.2.2. The NRC's Safety Evaluation (SE) to these amendments included the following statement: "Although more than one shutdown or control bank may be withdrawn from the fully inserted position at a time, a shutdown margin of at least 5%  $\Delta K$  ( $K_{eff}$  no greater than 0.95) will continue to be maintained by procedures during full-length control rod testing to prevent inadvertent criticality in the shutdown condition."

While this amendment resulted in being able to perform control rod testing on multiple banks, maintaining the  $K_{eff}$  at or below 0.95 requires the Reactor Coolant System to be borated to conservatively high levels (around 2700 ppm), well over the typical refueling boron concentration (approximately 2100 ppm). The high boron concentration can result in excessive primary water processing to dilute back down to the critical boron concentration.

ADD 1

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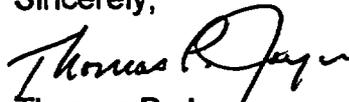
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An evaluation for maintaining a higher  $K_{eff}$  was performed. This evaluation demonstrated that it is acceptable to lower the  $K_{eff}$  during refueling evolutions. As a result, a revised commitment has been implemented using the provisions of 10CFR50.59.

The revised commitment states "Although more than one shutdown or control bank may be withdrawn from the fully inserted position at a time, the maximum allowable core  $K_{eff}$  will be limited to no greater than 0.98 (assuming that all shutdown and control rod banks are fully withdrawn), during full length control rod testing, to preclude inadvertent criticality during the performance of the specific evolution in the shutdown condition."

Should there be any questions please contact Howard Berrick at 856-339-1862.

Sincerely,



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