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APR 16 2004

RI-2003-A-0110

N. Kyma Harvin, Ph.D.

7C

Subject: Concerns Your Raised to the NRC Regarding Salem/Hope Creek

Dear Dr. Harvin:

This letter refers to your conversations with me on September 3-4, 2003, during which you expressed concerns related to Salem/Hope Creek. You were concerned about the work environment for raising safety concerns, potential discriminatory action against you [REDACTED]. You have had a number of subsequent conversations with me and other members of the NRC staff since that time and have provided the NRC with a significant amount of information related to site activities to provide the NRC with additional insight into the work environment at Artificial Island.

As you are aware, the NRC sent a letter to PSEG on January 28, 2004, informing them that in late 2003, we had initiated a special review to assess the environment for raising and addressing safety issues at Salem/Hope Creek, in light of information received in various allegations (including yours) and inspections over the past few years. The NRC's ongoing review has included in-depth interviews of numerous current and former Salem/Hope Creek employees, at various levels of the organization. Our interviews have sought to understand the extent to which a safety conscious work environment exists at the site. The NRC letter of January 28, 2004, a copy of which was provided to you, provided interim results of our ongoing review. The NRC letter informed that, while to this point, we have not identified any serious safety violations, collectively, information gathered has led to concerns about the work environment at Salem/Hope Creek, particularly as it relates to the handling of emergent equipment issues and associated operational decision making.

In our letter of January 28, 2004, we requested that PSEG provide a plan of action for addressing this matter. In PSEG's response letter dated February 27, 2004, they provided a plan to conduct an in-depth assessment of the work environment for raising and addressing safety concerns at Salem/Hope Creek. The PSEG effort is being conducted by an Independent Assessment Team (IAT) and is utilizing several sources of information, including the results of interviews conducted by the IAT of personnel both at the site and at the corporate office, the results of a work environment survey administered by Synergy in December 2003, and an assessment conducted by the Utilities Service Alliance (USA), which was completed in March 2004.

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On March 18, 2004, during a public meeting conducted between the NRC and PSEG in Bridgeport, NJ, PSEG officials discussed their review plan and preliminary results. At the meeting, PSEG discussed areas where the organization needed attention or was being challenged, as identified by the Synergy review. An additional meeting is planned after PSEG completes its assessments as described in their letter of February 27, 2004, to discuss the findings of their review and their plan and schedule for resolving identified problem areas. This meeting is currently planned for late-May or early-June 2004.

The NRC's special review to assess the environment for raising and addressing safety issues at Salem/Hope Creek is continuing. We are attempting to have our review completed or to be at a stage of completion where we can compare our assessment of the work environment at Salem/Hope Creek to that which will be provided by PSEG at the forthcoming public meeting. This will enable us to better judge the effectiveness of PSEG's review and proposed corrective actions.

Your discrimination concern is still being reviewed by the NRC, as is the possibility that some of the actions to which you referred [REDACTED]. When we have completed our review of these issues, we will notify you of our findings, actions and final resolution.

We thank you for all of the information you have provided to the NRC thus far in support of our review at Salem/Hope Creek. If I can be of further assistance at this time, please call me via the NRC Safety Hotline at 1-800-695-7403.

Sincerely,

JK

— original signed by —

David J. Vito
Senior Allegation Coordinator

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