

December 26, 2006

Mr. William Levis  
Senior Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear LLC - N09  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION RESPONSE TO  
GENERIC LETTER 2003-01, "CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY"  
(TAC NO. MB9812)

Dear Mr. Levis:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acknowledges the receipt of the responses from PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG), the licensee, dated August 8 and December 9, 2003 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML032310411 and ML033510613, respectively), to Generic Letter (GL) 2003-01, "Control Room Habitability," for the Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek). This letter provides a status of PSEG's responses and describes any actions that may be necessary to consider the responses to GL 2003-01 complete.

The GL requested that licensees confirm that the control room meets its design bases (e.g., General Design Criteria (GDC) 1, 3, 4, 5, and 19, draft GDC, or principal design criteria), with special attention to: (1) determination of the most limiting unfiltered and/or filtered inleakage into the control room and comparison to values used in your design bases for meeting control room operator dose limits from accidents (GL Item 1a); (2) determination that the most limiting unfiltered inleakage is incorporated into your hazardous chemical assessments; and, (3) determination that reactor control capability is maintained in the control room or at the alternate shutdown location in the event of smoke (GL Item 1b). The GL further requested information on any compensatory measures in use to demonstrate control room habitability, and plans to retire them (GL Item 2).

PSEG reported the results of tracer gas testing performed in accordance with American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Standard ASTM E741, "Standard Test Method for Determining Air Change in a Single Zone by Means of a Tracer Gas Dilution," for the Hope Creek control room, which is a positive pressure design. PSEG determined that the maximum tested value for inleakage into the control room envelope (CRE) was less than 325 cubic feet per minute (cfm), which is less than the 350 cfm inleakage assumed in the design basis radiological consequence analyses for control room habitability.

PSEG indicated that hazardous chemicals have been evaluated incorporating the unfiltered inleakage measured from tracer gas testing. PSEG determined that no changes to the operation of Hope Creek were required as a result of including the measured unfiltered inleakage values into the hazardous chemical assessments. The assessment used the acceptance criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.78, "Evaluating the Habitability of a Nuclear Power Plant Control Room During a Postulated Hazardous Chemical Release," Revision 1. PSEG

W. Levis

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also indicated that reactor control capability is maintained from either the control room or the remote shutdown areas in the event of smoke.

The GL further requested that licensees assess the plant Technical Specifications (TSs) to determine if they verify the integrity of the CRE, including ongoing verification of the inleakage assumed in the design basis analysis for control room habitability, in light of the demonstrated inadequacy of using only a measurement of pressure differential to provide such verification (GL Item 1.c). As permitted by the GL, PSEG provided a schedule for revising the surveillance requirement in the TSs to reference an acceptable surveillance methodology. PSEG stated in the December 9, 2003, response that a proposed license amendment to include a new TS surveillance requirement consistent with Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) Traveler TSTF-448 will be submitted three months after NRC approval of TSTF-448.

The NRC staff considers PSEG's actions to date, coupled with its commitment to submit a license amendment request based on TSTF-448 following NRC formal review and approval, acceptable for the purposes of closing out the response to GL 2003-01 for Hope Creek.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-1321 or at [snb@nrc.gov](mailto:snb@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Stewart N. Bailey, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

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