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: NRC RECEIPT OF SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 2003-01, "CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY" (TAC NOS. MB9851 AND MB9852)

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 Salem Nuclear Generating Station (Salem), Unit Nos. 1 and 2. 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 Criterion (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 you 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 Salem control room, which is common to both units and pressurized for accident mitigation. PSEG determined that the maximum tested value for inleakage into the control room envelope (CRE) is 100 cubic feet per minute (cfm). The staff notes that this is less than the 150 cfm CRE inleakage that is assumed in your current design basis radiological dose consequence analyses, which was recently approved in License Amendments 271 and 252 for Salem Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively (ADAMS Accession No. ML060040322).

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 Salem were required as a result of including the measured unfiltered inleakage values into the hazardous chemical assessments. The assessments used the acceptance

criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.78, "Evaluating the Habitability of a Nuclear Power Plant Control Room During Postulated Hazardous Chemical Release," Revision 1. PSEG 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 (3) 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 Salem Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-1321 or at 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 Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

cc: See next page

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. Dennis Winchester
Vice President - Nuclear Assessment
PSEG Nuclear
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Thomas P. Joyce
Site Vice President - Salem
PSEG Nuclear
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. George H. Gellrich
Plant Support Manager
PSEG Nuclear
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Carl J. Fricker
Plant Manager - Salem
PSEG Nuclear - N21
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. James Mallon
Manager - Licensing
200 Exelon Way, KSA 3-E
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. Steven Mannon
Manager - Regulatory Assurance
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire
PSEG Nuclear - N21
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Township Clerk
Lower Alloways Creek Township
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Paul Bauldauf, P.E., Asst. Director
Radiation Protection Programs
NJ Department of Environmental
Protection and Energy
CN 415
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Mr. Brian Beam
Board of Public Utilities
2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Senior Resident Inspector
Salem Nuclear Generating Station
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Drawer 0509
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

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