

December 20, 2006

Mr. William Levis  
Senior Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear LLC - X09  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2, REQUEST FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: AMENDMENT REQUEST TO IMPLEMENT  
TSTF-449 (TAC NO. MD1193)

Dear Mr. Levis:

By letter dated April 6, 2006, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG), the licensee for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 2, requested a license amendment to change the existing steam generator tube surveillance program to one that is consistent with the program proposed by the Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) Traveler TSTF-449. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that responses to the questions in the enclosure to this letter are necessary in order for the staff to complete its review. The enclosure was sent via e-mail to PSEG on June 27, 2006, to see whether the questions were understandable, whether the regulatory bases were clear, and whether the information was already docketed. PSEG indicated that no clarifications were needed. The NRC staff agreed that PSEG's response would be submitted after the NRC approved a license amendment to allow the use of the W\* methodology at Salem, Unit No. 2. The NRC approved the W\* amendment on September 28, 2006. Please provide a response to the enclosed questions within 30 days of the date of this letter in order to allow the NRC staff to complete a timely review of the amendment. This request was discussed with Mr. James Mallon of your staff on December 12, 2006. If you have questions about this request, please contact me at (301) 415-1321.

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. 50-311

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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\* by memo

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Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 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

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LICENSE AMENDMENT TO IMPLEMENT TSTF-449

SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2

DOCKET NO. 50-311

On March 21, 2006, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG), the licensee for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station (Salem), Unit No. 2, requested relief from certain requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, for the inservice inspection (ISI) of Class 1 and Class 2 components. PSEG stated that it had conducted examinations as part of the Second Ten-Year Interval ISI Program to the extent practical; however, coverage for certain weld examinations was less than required by the Code. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that responses to the following questions are necessary in order for the staff to complete its review:

By letter dated April 6, 2006 (ML061560393), PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG, the licensee) requested a license amendment for Salem Generating Station (Salem), Unit No. 2, to replace the existing steam generator (SG) tube surveillance program with the program being proposed by the Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) Traveler TSTF-449, Revision 4. The proposed change revises the Technical Specifications (TS) definitions of "Identified Leakage" (TS 1.19) and "Pressure Boundary Leakage," (TS 1.21) as well as the TS and Associated Bases for Specifications 3/4.4.6, "Steam Generator (SG) Tube Integrity," and 3/4.4.7.2, "Operational Leakage." The change also adds Specifications 6.8.4.i, "Steam Generator (SG) Program," and 6.9.1.10, "Steam Generator Tube Inspection Report."

In order to complete the review, the staff needs the additional information requested below:

1. Proposed TS 6.8.4.i, "Steam Generator (SG) Program," lists "WEXTEx expanded region inspection methodology (W\* Methodology)" as an alternative repair option (TS 6.8.4.i.c.1). An associated note indicates the details of the W\* methodology will be incorporated into the TS if the amendment is approved by the NRC.

The NRC cannot approve the TS as written because they do not include the details for the W\* alternative repair criteria. Please provide modified TS and Bases pages that include the details necessary for implementing the W\* criteria (e.g., tube inspection, tube repair criteria, and reporting requirements).

2. Attachment 3 of your submittal is a regulatory commitment to implement the Steam Generator Program in accordance with NEI 97-06 at the same time the TSTF-449 amendment is implemented. It is the staff's understanding that each plant already implements the NEI 97-06 guidelines, whether or not it has received an amendment to adopt the TSTF-449 steam generator tube integrity program. Please confirm the staff's understanding that NEI 97-06 is currently implemented at Salem Unit No. 2.

Enclosure

3. The sixth paragraph of Insert 4, proposed Bases Section 3/4.4.6, "Steam Generator (SG) Tube Integrity," discusses the structural integrity performance criterion. Although similar to the corresponding paragraph in TSTF-449, it adds the following sentence:

The determination of whether thermal loads are primary or secondary loads is based on the ASME definition in which secondary loads are self-limiting and will not cause failure under single load application.

Since the TSTF-449 wording explains that, for circumferential cracking, the classification of loads as primary or secondary will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, the intent of the added statement above is unclear. Please discuss the reason for adding this statement.

4. The proposed Bases Section 3/4.4.7.2, "Operational Leakage," Insert 5, omits applicable safety analysis information that is in your current TS Bases and consistent with TSTF-449. Please discuss why this information was deleted from your Bases.
5. In Action b listed under proposed TS 3.4.7.2, the requirements are to "reduce the leakage rate to within limits within 4 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN **during within** the following 30 hours." (Emphasis added by the staff.) Please discuss your plans to correct this apparent typographical error.
6. In the proposed Index, pages V and XII list the title of 3/4.4.6 as "Steam Generators (SG) Tube Integrity." The staff notes that the singular form, "Steam Generator (SG) Tube Integrity," is actually the title for these sections.