July 6, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Gregory Hatchett, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

FROM: H. Brent Clayton, Chief***/RA/***
Environmental Technical Support Branch
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT – MAY 27-29, 2009, READINESS ASSSESSMENT (C-1) VISIT FOR A FUTURE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION AT THE SALEM/HOPE CREEK SITE

This report summarizes the pre-application readiness assessment (C-1) visit by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on May 27-29, 2009, related to the environmental portion of a future early site permit (ESP) application for the Salem/Hope Creek site near Salem, New Jersey. Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) has indicated its intent to submit an ESP application for this site in May 2010. The purposes of this visit were to assess the applicant's readiness and to familiarize the NRC staff with the Salem/Hope Creek site, focusing on areas likely to be affected by the proposed construction and operation of the new unit(s).

PSEG provided briefings on its proposed plans. PSEG has not selected a nuclear reactor technology for installation at the site. PSEG is evaluating the available technologies to determine which one would be most appropriate for its situation. Current plans call for a single unit if the technology chosen is U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (USEPR), U.S. Advanced Pressurized-Water Reactor (USAPWR), or Advanced Boiling-Water Reactor (ABWR) and for two units if the technology chosen is Advanced Passive 1000 (AP1000). As a result, PSEG is planning to develop a plant parameter envelope (PPE) that would bound all potential technologies for analytical purposes for the ESP process.

The team took part in both general site and discipline-specific tours to become familiar with the site-specific issues and concerns related to the proposed site. The general site tour included the proposed location of the power block(s), the existing barge slip, the existing cooling tower and units, and a view of the proposed cooling tower location(s).

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Additional discipline-specific tours included an aquatic and terrestrial ecology tour, a hydrology tour, a tour of the meteorological tower, and a cultural resources tour. In addition, a boat tour of the intake and discharge locations, nearby wetlands, the adjacent Delaware River, and part of a potential access road location occurred on Friday.

No off-site meetings were held during the site visit; however, conference calls on cultural resources were held with Joan Laravee of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Meghan Barrata and Vincent Maresca of the New Jersey SHPO. Cultural staff also contacted the President of the Salem Historical Society and staff at the Salem Old House Foundation. During this trip, the socioeconomic subject matter expert conducted a windshield survey of the area to gain an understanding of the layout of the communities and the nature of the transportation and public infrastructure.

Enclosure 1 provides a list of attendees. Enclosure 2 is the agenda used during the visit. Enclosure 3 is a summary of the more significant issues that were discussed. Note that this assessment was conducted several months prior to the applicant's planned ESP application date, and the staff did not expect the environmental report (ER) to be fully developed at this stage. Based on discussions to date and data collection underway, PSEG appears to be on track to submit a complete ESP application in May 2010.

The next readiness assessment visit (C-2) is scheduled for October 2009. The final readiness assessment visit (C-3) will likely be in late January 2010, and the public interface meeting will likely be in February 2010.

Project No. 077

Enclosures:
As stated

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