



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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September 28, 2010

Mr. Thomas Joyce
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PSEG Nuclear, LLC
P.O. Box 236, N09
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION - TRANSMITTAL OF DRAFT SAFETY
EVALUATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT RE: USE OF ISOTOPE TEST
ASSEMBLIES FOR COBALT-60 PRODUCTION (TAC NO. ME2949)

Dear Mr. Joyce:

By letter dated December 21, 2009, as supplemented by letters dated May 11, June 10, June 24, June 29, July 28, August 3, August 12, September 10, and September 17, 2010, PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG or the licensee) submitted a proposed license amendment for Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS). The proposed amendment would allow the production of Cobalt-60 by irradiating Cobalt-59 targets located in modified fuel assemblies called Isotope Test Assemblies (ITAs). The amendment would allow PSEG to load up to 12 ITAs into the HCGS reactor core beginning with the fall 2010 refueling outage.

Enclosed is the draft Safety Evaluation (SE) that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared to support the proposed license amendment. The draft SE is being withheld from public disclosure at this time because it contains proprietary information pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2, Section 2.390. Proprietary information is identified by text enclosed within double brackets as shown here [[]].

The NRC staff requests that PSEG provide comments regarding the proprietary content in the draft SE by close of business on October 4, 2010. The response timeframe was discussed with Mr. Jeff Keenan of your staff on September 27, 2010. If circumstances result in the need to revise your response date, or if you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1420.

Since the NRC review is not yet complete, this letter and the enclosure do not convey or represent an NRC staff position regarding the licensee's request. Should the amendment be approved, the NRC staff will prepare a redacted, publicly available, nonproprietary version of the SE.

***Enclosure transmitted herewith contains sensitive unclassified information.
When separated from enclosure, this transmittal document is decontrolled.***

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T. Joyce

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBE", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosure:
Draft Proprietary SE

cc w/o enclosure: Distribution via Listserv

T. Joyce

- 2 -

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

/ra/

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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