



**Comments of Dr. Edward H. Salmon,
Chairman of the NJ Energy Coalition**

**NRC Public Scoping Hearing on the
PSEG Early Site Permit Application**

**Thursday, November, 4 2010, 1:00pm
Salem Community College, Davidow Hall
460 Hollywood Avenue
Carneys Point, NJ**

Good afternoon. My name is Edward H. Salmon and I currently serve as Chairman of the New Jersey Energy Coalition. Thank you for granting us the opportunity to comment on the PSEG Early Site Permit Application at the Artificial Island complex in Salem County.

For some background, the New Jersey Energy Coalition is a broad-based advocacy group whose membership includes businesses, industry, labor leaders, civic organizations and distinguished citizens from across New Jersey. The Coalition's focus is to provide a credible third-party voice in the discussion on the composition of New Jersey's energy portfolio. We provide education that stresses the need for a broad energy platform that includes conservation, green job creation, energy efficiency, supply diversity, transmission upgrades, clean base load generation and healthy, smart and economically viable renewable energy projects.

Since it was formed in August 2007, the NJ Energy Coalition has been actively involved in New Jersey's energy sector at all levels, through a variety of events, forums and approaches. Our goal is to inform and educate citizens, businesses and policy makers on the need for a strong, focused, diverse set of solutions to meet our state's present and future energy needs.

My comments today are focused on our state's environmental and economic well being. The Coalition's mission is to support clean, affordable, reliable sources of energy, and no form of base load generation fits that description better than nuclear energy. Based on data compiled annually by the Nuclear Energy Institute, New Jersey's four nuclear reactors produced 55 percent of our in-state electrical supply in 2009. The NJ Energy Coalition Strongly feels that the development of new nuclear plants can help our state address climate change issues and fuel economic stimulus.

Nuclear generation is clean. It produces zero carbon emissions or criteria air pollutants. In 2009 alone, New Jersey's nuclear power plants avoided the emission of one hundred and forty-two thousand tons of sulfur dioxide and 30 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, emissions that commonly contribute to greenhouse gases, smog and acid rain. Nuclear energy accounts for 73

percent of the nation's emission-free electrical generation, and it needs to expand this role in compliment with other renewable sources to meet rising energy demand in an environmentally responsible matter. Alternative sources are important, but can only take us so far — wind and solar are intermittent and lack the sheer capacity of base load plants.

Conservation efforts, energy efficiency enhancements and a diverse mix of energy sources will serve us best. However, we should promote an increase in the use of nuclear energy as an environmentally clean and reliable solution. New Jersey needs to better acknowledge and take advantage of the proven technology capable of providing carbon-free base load electricity. The development of new nuclear generating facilities is essential if we are going to address climate change, meet demand increases in a meaningful way, and promote energy independence from the Middle East. Changes in federal air regulations, the age of existing facilities and an improving economy all signal the need for new clean base load power supplies.

Nuclear energy is also affordable and reliable. With rising energy costs a concern for every American, nuclear power plants are the lowest-cost producer of base load electricity. Especially in a region that is densely populated and whose industry drives demand, nuclear generation's low cost and reliability fosters a competitive energy market and keeps electric costs down for the ratepayer. And in these difficult economic times, the development of a new nuclear facility would provide much-needed job growth. The construction phase creates 1,400 to 1,800 jobs, and when completed the facility would employ over 500 people in local high-paying jobs. Every year nuclear plants generate approximately \$430 million in the sales of goods and services in their local communities, not to mention their significant tax contributions that benefit local infrastructure, public services and schools.

We need to keep pace with our state's energy needs. The U.S. Department of Energy projects that national electricity demand will increase 28 percent by 2035, and to maintain nuclear energy's current 20 percent contribution, we must build about one new reactor per year starting in 2016. New wind and solar power will definitely play a part in our energy future, but the simple nature of their intermittency requires something more. The New Jersey Energy Coalition supports the development of a new nuclear facility here in Salem County as it will help mitigate rising energy demand with a clean power source that fuels job growth and strengthens our economy.