

Good Evening,

My name is Charles Hassler. I come here today to speak in support of PSEG's Early Site Permit.

I am a lifelong resident of Salem City and have worked at the Salem-Hope Creek Nuclear Facility for about 34 years.

I am currently a Business Agent for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 94, which represents the organized work force of about 750 people who are permanently employed at the facility in different capacities. Additionally, I am a member of the New Jersey IBEW, the umbrella organization with more than 35,000 members.

Our support is based on our understanding of how the NRC proceeds with this Early Site Permit effort. It is an informed, rational support and comes only with our belief that the safety of our members and the public at large will be assured with the construction and operation of a new plant at the site. PSEG has a proven record of providing safe, reliable energy at its nuclear units.

The 3 units now on the site, have been operating at a capacity factor of about 90-95% for the past several years. Salem and Hope Creek continue to set new standards of excellence with record generation and performance. Prior to its outage in October 2009, Salem Unit 2 ran for 515 consecutive days at a capacity factor of 100%. This type of performance can only be achieved through diligent processes and procedure adherence while operating and maintaining the plants. The personal standards for all workers are high. Nuclear power supplies the State of New Jersey with about 52% of its electric needs. It is important in meeting the energy demand of not only the State and but the region as well. Producing this electricity with Nuclear power is done without creating greenhouse gases, which is an important and

critical component to this discussion, given the global warming situation. Equally important is that there is no impact on the local environment. Without these plants the reliability of the electric delivery to meet demand would be put at risk. As demand increases, we must consider the need for another nuclear power plant. Next, America's reliance on foreign energy imports continues to stress our economy costing Americans jobs and putting the middle class itself at risk. A sound energy policy is in our nation's best interest and Nuclear energy must play an important role in that policy. Construction of a new plant would also be very good for the local economy. Building a new plant would result in the creation of between 1400 to 1800 jobs and as high as 2500 or more at peak employment during the construction. After that, a new plant would mean 400 to 700 permanent jobs that pay about 36 percent more than average salaries in the area. Salem County is a rural community at heart, with very few industries and very few jobs to offer. If you are fortunate, as our members and all others in the company are, PSEG is the place to work. Building a new plant opens the doors of opportunity for stable employment, a better career and a better way of life for hundreds of people.

The officers, staff and the members of IBEW Local 94 support PSEG and their early site permit application and their plans to possibly build a new nuclear plant right here in Salem County.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Charles Hassler
Business Agent
IBEW LU 94
219 Franklin Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Office – 609-426-9702 ext 5
Cell – 609-647-4840