

September 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony H. Hsia, Chief **/RA William Burton for/**
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

FROM: Allen H. Fetter, Senior Project Manager
Environmental Projects Branch 2
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Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITE AUDITS RELATED TO
THE REVIEW OF THE PSEG EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR
THE PSEG SITE

On October 15, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and to conduct scoping for the PSEG Power, LLC and PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) Site, Early Site Permit (ESP) application submitted by PSEG. In support of the NRC staff's environmental review of the PSEG Site ESP application and development of the EIS, NRC staff conducted an audit of alternative sites from April 17-19, 2012, and a main environmental site audit May 7-11, 2012. These audits took place principally at the PSEG Ecology and Environmental Resource Center (EERC) in Salem, New Jersey (NJ), but included field visits to various locations associated with the proposed site, as well as alternative sites identified and evaluated by PSEG.

The purpose of the alternative sites audit was as follows: 1) to determine if the applicant has reasonably identified alternative sites, evaluated the environmental impacts of construction and operation at these sites, and developed and used a logical, reproducible means of comparing sites that has led to the applicant's selection of the proposed site; and 2) to determine if any alternative sites can be shown to be environmentally preferable, and if so, obviously superior to the applicant's proposed site.

For the main environmental site audit, the purpose was as follows: 1) to become familiar with the proposed site and the surrounding environment; 2) obtain additional information as set forth in the Information Needs developed by the staff and review references and documents related to the environmental report submitted as a part of the ESP application; and 3) review additional data to assist in the environmental review, analysis and documentation of the applicant's action as part of the development of the EIS.

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For each audit, PSEG gave an overview presentation of the proposed project and led the following tours: a general tour of the Salem/Hope Creek site and the proposed ESP site, visit to the proposed causeway location along Money Island Road, and a visit to site 15G (land to be purchased by PSEG for a potential land exchange with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)). During the alternative sites audit, PSEG went over the screening criteria and methodology for identifying and evaluating candidate sites. Subsequently, the NRC team toured and observed all of the candidate alternative sites with the applicant.

The agenda and a detailed accounting of NRC staff observations during the alternative sites audit are included in Enclosure 1. For the main site audit, the principal interactions consisted of discipline specific breakout sessions to address audit items/topics in the Information Needs table. In addition to these breakout sessions, PSEG also conducted discipline specific tours. These discipline specific tours included the shoreline along the Delaware River; proposed intake and discharge locations; meteorological monitoring station; proposed footprints of the surrogate plant, and associated structures; proposed transportation routes; and areas to be disturbed by construction related activities. PSEG gave presentations on the proposed land exchange and the estuary enhancement program. The agenda and activities associated with the main site audit are in Enclosure 2.

The NRC audit teams included a mix of subject matter experts from the NRC, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), and Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). The individuals who participated in the respective audits are listed in the enclosed trip reports.

Both audits included interactions with Federal, State, and local agencies to discuss their concerns, as well as providing them the opportunity to see the site and interact with the applicant. The staff invited the following resource agencies to attend the main audit: Environmental Protection Agency – Regions 2 and 3, USACE – Philadelphia District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and the Delaware River Basin Commission. NMFS and FWS representatives, however, were unable to attend either audit.

Enclosure 1 of this memo is the trip report of the alternative sites audit, which includes the scope of the audit, a list of participants, a summary of audit activities, a detailed agenda, and observations made during the audit.

Enclosure 2 of this memo is the trip report of the main environmental site audit, which includes the scope of the audit, a list of participants, a summary of audit activities, a detailed agenda, and observations made during the audit.

Docket No. 52-043

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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