



Order EA-12-049

LR-N12-0089
March 29, 2012

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2
Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75
NRC Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

Hope Creek Generating Station
Renewed Facility Operating License No. NPF-57
NRC Docket No. 50-354

Subject: PSEG Nuclear LLC's Response to March 12, 2012 Commission Order Modifying License With Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events (Order Number EA-12-049)

On March 12, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC" or "Commission") issued an immediately effective order in the captioned matter entitled Order Modifying License with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events (Effective Immediately) ("Order") to, *inter alia*, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG). The Order states that, as a result of the NRC's evaluation of the lessons learned from the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi in March 2011, the NRC has decided to direct nuclear power plant licensees and construction permit holders to take certain actions. Specifically, the NRC is requiring additional defense-in-depth measures at licensed nuclear power reactors to address uncertainties associated with protection from beyond-design-basis external events. Licensees are directed by the Order to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to restore or maintain core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. Specific requirements are outlined in Attachment 2 to the Order.

The Order requires submission of an overall integrated plan, including a description of how compliance with the requirements described in Attachment 2 will be achieved, to the NRC for review by February 28, 2013. In addition, the Order requires submission of an initial status report 60 days following issuance of the final interim staff guidance and at six month intervals following submittal of the overall integrated plan on February 28, 2013. The Order states that the NRC intends to issue the interim staff guidance containing specific details on implementation of the requirements of this order in August 2012. Finally, the order requires full implementation of its requirements no later than two refueling cycles after submittal of the overall integrated plan, or December 31, 2016, whichever comes first.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.202 and the terms specified in the Order, PSEG hereby submits its answer to the Order. PSEG consents to the Order and does not request a hearing. Based on information currently available, PSEG has not identified any circumstances of the type described in Sections IV.B.1 and IV.B.2 of the Order requiring relief at this time. In addition, PSEG has not identified any impediments to compliance with the Order within two refueling cycles after submittal of the integrated plan, or December 31, 2016, whichever is earlier. PSEG will provide further responses as required by Section IV.C. in accordance with the specified deadlines.

Uncertainties are associated with the ultimate scope of required work because the implementing guidance is not expected to be available until August 2012. This may have an impact on the ability of PSEG to comply with the specific compliance deadline dates. Therefore, PSEG's future responses may include requests for schedule relief as warranted by subsequent NRC requirements, implementing guidance, or the results of engineering analyses not yet performed. Any such request would be submitted in accordance with the relaxation provision in Section IV of the Order.

There are no regulatory commitments contained in this letter.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Emily Maguire at 856-339-1023.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 3/29/12
(Date)

Sincerely,



Robert C. Braun
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations

- cc: Mr. E. Leeds, Director of Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Mr. W. Dean, Administrator, Region I, NRC
Mr. R. Ennis, Project Manager, NRC
NRC Senior Resident Inspector, Salem
NRC Senior Resident Inspector, Hope Creek
Mr. P. Mulligan, Manager IV, NJBNE
Mr. L. Marabella, Corporate Commitment Tracking Coordinator
Mr. K. Yearwood, Hope Creek Commitment Tracking Coordinator
Mr. Thomas Cachaza, Salem Commitment Tracking Coordinator