



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

February 11, 2013

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 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF LICENSE RENEWAL LICENSE  
CONDITIONS (TAC NO. ME9426)

Dear Mr. Joyce:

By letter dated July 19, 2012,<sup>1</sup> PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG, the licensee), submitted a summary of results from the boroscopic examinations, ultrasonic thickness measurements, and leakage detections from penetrations associated with license conditions 2.C.26 and 2.C.27, for the Hope Creek Generating Station (Hope Creek). The renewed Operating License No. NPF-57 for Hope Creek was issued on July 20, 2011. The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's letter dated July, 19, 2012, and has determined that additional information is required, as provided in the enclosure, in order to complete its review.

The draft questions were sent to Mr. Paul Duke, of your staff, to ensure that the questions were understandable, the regulatory basis for the questions was clear, and to determine if the information was previously docketed. On February 4, 2013, Mr. Duke indicated that the licensee will submit a response by February 25, 2013.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3204.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Hughey".

John D. Hughey, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional Information

cc: Distribution via ListServ

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<sup>1</sup> Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12228A388.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
IMPLEMENTATION OF LICENSE CONDITIONS 2.C.26 AND  
PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF LICENSE CONDITION 2.C.27  
PSEG NUCLEAR LLC  
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION  
DOCKET NUMBER 50-354

The renewed Operating License No. NPF-57 for Hope Creek Generating Station was issued on July 20, 2011. By letter dated July 19, 2012, "License Renewal Commitment Implementation," (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12228A388) PSEG Nuclear LLC, the licensee for Hope Creek Generating Station, submitted a summary of results from the boroscopic examinations, ultrasonic thickness measurements, and leakage detections from penetrations associated with license conditions 2.C.26 and 2.C.27. To satisfy some of the licensing conditions included as part of the renewed license, the licensee was required to establish the drainage capability of drywell air gap drains, under the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Section XI, Subsection IWE aging management program by draining refueling water from the four 4-inch drywell air gap drains to eliminate the corrosive environment condition on the exterior surface of the carbon steel drywell shell, due to potential leakage of refueling water from the reactor cavity seal area to the lower steel containment drywell area. The NRC staff has determined that additional information is needed to complete the review.

The licensee stated that "[A]t a conservative corrosion rate of 5 mils per cycle the analysis limit would not be reached for over 9 cycles," on page 5 of the submittal dated July 19, 2012. The NRC staff was unable to verify that the thickness analysis limit would not be reached for over 9 cycles, considering the current margin of thickness of 32.5 mils that the licensee identified in refueling outage RF17, and by assuming a linear corrosion rate of 5 mils per cycle.

RAI-01: Provide a discussion that explains how the analysis limit for the thickness of steel containment drywell shell would not be reached for over 9 cycles.

Enclosure

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*/RA/*

John D. Hughey, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
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<sup>1</sup> Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12062A148

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML13036A429**

**\* via e-mail dated**

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<sup>1</sup> Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12228A388.