Public Service Electric and Gas Company

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Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Document Control Desk Washington, DC 20555

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CARPET AND FLOOR COVERING FIRE TEST QUALIFICATION SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) hereby submits a request to recognize the radiant heat flux test as an acceptable fire protection method of certifying carpeting and other flooring materials for use at Salem Generating Station. This request is in accordance with the guidance provided in Generic Letter 86-10 which states that changes to a Fire Protection Program must be approved by the NRC prior to implementation, unless the program has been incorporated into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report.

PSE&G is planning to install new carpeting in the Salem Unit No. 2 Control Room during the current refueling outage and in Salem Unit No. 1 during the tenth refueling outage, scheduled for spring 1992. Carpet is no longer tested to ASTM E-84 to which PSE&G is committed (PSE&G Fire Protection Evaluation Comparison to BTP 9.5-1 - Appendix A, dated September 14, 1977) for flame spread qualification of building materials. The carpet industry, as well as the model building codes, NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, and the insurance industry, now recognize the radiant heat flux test for qualifying carpet for flame spread behavior. The details of this test are identified in ASTM E-648 and NFPA 253, both entitled "Standard Test Method for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor-Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source."

PSE&G is requesting recognition of the radiant flux test as an acceptable alternative to the ASTM E-84 tunnel test for qualifying the flame spread properties of carpet and other flooring materials. Currently, the model building codes (e.g., BOCA 1990 Section 922.8.5), NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (Sections 6-5.4.1 and 6-5.4.2), and PSE&G's insurer (Nuclear Mutual Limited) have established 0.45 watts/square centimeter as

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the minimum acceptable heat flux value for Class I floor finishes and carpeting. If the NRC accepts the radiant flux test and concurs with the minimum value stated, PSE&G will ensure that all future carpeting and flooring materials meet this criteria.

Previously, the NRC has recognized the radiant heat flux test as an acceptable method of rating floor coverings as Class I. Boston Edison was granted permission to install floor coverings using this method for Pilgrim Nuclear Station by NRC Letter dated September 24, 1987. Omaha Public Power District and Vermont Yankee were issued SERs addressing floor coverings by NRC letters dated December 22, 1986 and March 25, 1986.

PSE&G requests your consideration of this submittal as soon as possible, to allow installation during the Unit 2 sixth refueling outage, currently in progress. Should there be any questions with regard to this submittal, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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C Mr. J. C. Stone Licensing Project Manager

> Mr. T. Johnson Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. T. Martin, Administrator Region I

Mr. Kent Tosch, Chief New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Environmental Quality Bureau of Nuclear Engineering CN 415 Trenton, NJ 08625