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Nuclear Business Unit

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Gentlemen:

**1996 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

The attached 1996 Annual Environmental Operating Report is hereby submitted pursuant to Subsection 5.4.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan (Non-radiological) for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The Environmental Protection Plan is Appendix B to Facility Operation License DPR-70 and DPR-75 (Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311).

Sincerely,

D. R. Powell
Manager -
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Attachment (1)

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The power is in your hands.



APR 10 1997

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1996 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
(NON-RADIOLOGICAL)
January 1 through December 31, 1996

SALEM GENERATION STATION
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311
OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY
P.O. BOX 236
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APRIL 1997

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1.0' INTRODUCTION

This 1996 Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) is submitted in accordance with Section 5.4.1 of the Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), Non-radiological (Appendix B to Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311, respectively).

This is the eighth Annual Environmental Operating report submitted under the EPP and covers Salem Unit No. 1 and Salem Unit No. 2 for the period from January 1 through December 31, 1996. During 1996, Salem Unit No. 1 and 2 generated zero megawatt-hours of net electrical energy.

As required by Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP, we have included summaries and analyses of the results of all required environmental protection activities. This information is described in Section 2.0. Section 3.0 addresses the issues of EPP compliance. Changes to station design or operation and the review for potentially significant unreviewed - environmental questions are addressed in Section 4.0. Unusual and/or important environmental events are discussed in Section 5.0.

2.0' ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 AQUATIC MONITORING ISSUES

Subsection 4.2.1 of the EPP references the Clean Water Act as a mechanism for protecting aquatic biota through water quality monitoring. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) relies on the State of New Jersey, acting under the authority of the Clean Water Act, to insure applicable requirements for aquatic monitoring are implemented. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is the State's regulatory agency.

The NJDEP requires as part of the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit program that effluent monitoring be performed, with the results summarized and submitted monthly on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. The monitoring is intended to determine compliance with the effluent limitations of the station's NJPDES permit (No. NJ0005622). We have reviewed the DMRs corresponding to the 1996 AEOR reporting period and have determined that no significant deviations have occurred. We have observed no evidence of trends towards damage to the environment. Copies of monthly DMRs are routinely sent to USNRC's Document Control Desk and additional copies are available upon request.

The Salem NJPDES Permit effective September 1, 1994 includes Special Conditions for enhancement of the Delaware Estuary. These Special Conditions include:

- * Modification of the circulating water intake structure's traveling screens to improve the condition of fish returned to the river. This work is in progress and is expected to be completed in 1997.
- * The elimination of impediments to fish migration through installation of five fish ladders to enhance the reproduction opportunities for anadromous fish. Three of the fish ladders are in service and have been demonstrated to be utilized by fish.
- * The restoration and enhancement of over 8,800 acres of degraded wetlands including diked wetlands and wetlands dominated by common reed. The land necessary to complete the restoration and enhancement has been obtained and restoration activities continue. The plans and progress for restoration and enhancement are reviewed by the Management Plan Advisory Committee made up of agency personnel and recognized experts.

* Extensive bayside and site specific biological monitoring programs are continuing and the plans and progress are reviewed by the Monitoring Advisory Committee made up of agency personnel and recognized experts.

While the USNRC relies on the State of New Jersey and the NJDEP for protection of the water quality, the National Marine Fisheries Service maintains regulatory authority with respect to certain migratory threatened and endangered aquatic species. As required by Amendments 129 and 108 to the Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75 and the Section 7 Consultation, Biological Opinion, Salem Generating Station conducted inspections of the circulating water intake trash bars at least every two hours during the 1996 sea turtle season. No threatened or endangered species were recovered in 1996.

Salem Generating Station will continue to implement the Conservation Recommendations referenced in the revised Section 7, Consultation.

2.2 TERRESTRIAL ISSUES

Section 4.2.2 of the EPP no longer requires terrestrial monitoring. Monitoring of Diamondback Terrapin nesting and the Osprey and Bald Eagle surveys were completed in 1989. However, PSE&G has voluntarily continued to monitor the osprey population in a joint effort with the NJDEP.

3.0 EPP COMPLIANCE STATUS

3.1 EPP NONCOMPLIANCES

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of EPP noncompliances and the corrective actions taken to remedy them. No significant environmental impacts attributable to the operation of Salem Generating Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2 were observed during 1996. However, in June 1996, PSE&G did not clean every trash rack daily as required by Section 4.2.1 of the EPP. Corrective actions were taken to address the non-compliance including work order revisions and training to the specific requirements of the EPP. The non-compliance did not have a significant environmental impact due to the Salem units not being operational.

3.2 REVIEW

Subsection 5.1 of the EPP for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, requires that an independent review of compliance with the EPP be maintained and made available for inspection. The EPP was reviewed by PSE&G's Corporate Environmental Management Department in July 1996. This review indicated that Salem Generating Station was operated in compliance with the EPP.

4.0 CHANGES IN STATION DESIGN OR OPERATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.1 of the EPP for Salem Unit Nos. 1 and 2, station design changes and operation performance of tests or experiments, for the AEOR covered time period, were reviewed for potential environmental impact. None of the recommended changes posed a potential to significantly affect the environment, therefore, none involved an unreviewed environmental question or a change in the EPP.

5.0 NONROUTINE REPORTS

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of all nonroutine reports (submitted in accordance with Subsection 5.4.2 of the EPP) be included as part of the Annual Environmental Operating Report.

Salem Generating Station experienced no unusual or important events that indicated or could have resulted in a "significant environmental impact" during the 1996 reporting period.