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June 19, 1997

Mr. Leon R. Eliason  
Chief Nuclear Officer & President  
Nuclear Business Unit  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
P. O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE  
EVALUATION AT SALEM GENERATING STATION UNITS 1&2

Dear Mr. Eliason:

Mr. L. Storz's letter of June 10, 1997, to Mr. H. Miller requested postponement of the operational safeguards response evaluation (OSRE) that was scheduled to be conducted at Salem Units 1&2 the week of September 15, 1997. That letter stated that the postponement would allow resources to be concentrated on the restart of the Salem units and allow the NRC to conduct the OSRE at both Salem and Hope Creek during the same evaluation. Hope Creek had been excluded from the OSRE scheduled in September because it will be in an outage.

After careful review of the reasons identified in Mr. Storz's letter for the requested postponement, we have determined that rescheduling the OSRE to April 1998 would be appropriate.

My staff will be in contact with your security staff to establish a firm date for the Salem and Hope Creek OSRE in April 1998.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Glenn W. Meyer for

James T. Wiggins, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-272; 50-311

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Mr. Leon R. Eliason

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cc:

L. Storz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations  
E. Simpson, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Engineering  
E. Salowitz, Director - Nuclear Business Support  
A. F. Kirby, III, External Operations - Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.  
D. Garchow, General Manager - Salem Operations  
J. McMahon, Director - Quality Assurance & Nuclear Safety Review  
D. Powell, Manager, Licensing and Regulation  
R. Kankus, Joint Owner Affairs  
A. Tapert, Program Administrator  
J. J. Keenan, Esquire  
M. Wetterhahn, Esquire  
J. A. Isabella, Manager, Joint Generation  
Atlantic Electric  
Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate  
William Conklin, Public Safety Consultant, Lower Alloways Creek Township  
Public Service Commission of Maryland  
State of New Jersey  
State of Delaware

Mr. Leon R. Eliason

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Public Service  
Electric and Gas  
Company

Louis F. Storz

Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236, Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038 609-339-5700

Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations

**JUN 10 1997**

LR-N970360

Regional Administrator  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

**POSTPONEMENT OF OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION  
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNITS 1 AND 2  
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION  
DOCKET NOS. 50-272, 50-311, 50-354**

Dear Mr. Miller:

The current inspection schedule indicates that an Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) is scheduled to be conducted at Salem Units 1 and 2 beginning on September 15, 1997. As a result of a previous agreement with the NRC, Hope Creek has been excluded from the scope of this evaluation, and will be inspected at a later date. Hope Creek was excluded because it will be in a refueling outage at the time of the inspection.

The purpose of this letter is to request a postponement in the OSRE schedule from September, 1997 to April, 1998. This postponement will allow PSE&G to concentrate our resources toward the restart of our Salem Units. The postponement will also allow the NRC to conduct the OSRE at both Salem and Hope Creek during the same evaluation.

PSE&G is currently<sup>is</sup> enhancing our security program and processes and are confident that we could be prepared for our OSRE in September. However, our resources could be better used in support of our critical goal of restarting the Salem Units. The restart of the Salem Units, and their subsequent safe, reliable, eventless performance is our primary focus. Preparation for the OSRE would divert resources from the Salem restart effort. Specifically, the OSRE preparation requires extensive support and involvement of station operations, maintenance, and engineering. These same resources are also integral to the successful restart of the Salem Units. Involving these resources in OSRE preparation at the same time we are restarting both Salem units and refueling Hope Creek will have a negative impact.

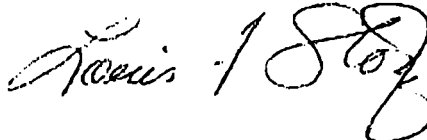
Mr. H. Miller  
LR-N970360

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JUN 10 1997

As a result, PSE&G is requesting a postponement in the OSRE schedule from September, 1997 to April, 1998. If you have questions regarding this submittal, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



C Mr. Hubert J. Miller, Administrator - Region I  
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