



**PSE&G**

Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038-0236

**Nuclear Business Unit**

**AUG 20 1997**

LR-N970551  
LCR S97-19

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

**CLARIFICATION FOR EXIGENT REQUEST  
FOR CHANGE TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
MOVABLE CONTROL ASSEMBLIES AND POSITION INDICATION SYSTEMS  
SALEM GENERATING STATION NO. 2  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE DPR-75  
DOCKET NO. 50-311**

Gentlemen:

By letter dated August 19, 1997 (Our Ref. LR-N970543; LCR 97-19), Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) Company requested a revision to the Technical Specifications (TS) for Salem Generating Station Unit No. 2. This request was made on an exigent basis. The paragraph below contains additional clarifying information relative to the exigent nature of the request.

Salem Unit 2 commenced a reactor startup on August 17, 1997, following an extended shutdown. Although Rod Position Indication (RPI) calibration has been a recognized problem, PSE&G took significant steps in trying to avoid some of these difficulties. These difficulties (curve linearity and thermal effects) were discussed in Attachment 1 of our August 19, letter.

In early August, PSE&G, in conjunction with vendor recommendations and participation, revised the calibration procedures to more closely reflect the original Westinghouse calibration procedures. The RPI system was successfully calibrated and Unit 2 went critical on August 17, 1997. On August 18, during performance of reactor physics testing (rod swap), two control rods deviated from their group demand counter by 13 steps or one step over the limit. Salem Unit 2 entered Technical Specification Limiting Condition for Operation 3.1.3.2.1. As a result of the rod position indication being greater than  $\pm 12$  steps, Salem Unit 2 completed a Technical Specification 3.1.3.2.1 required shutdown on August 19, 1997.

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Investigation onto this apparent misalignment did not indicate any deficiencies with the calibration or circuitry. Therefore prior to August 19, 1997, PSE&G could have not foreseen the need to expedite this change, and requests exigent approval of these changes to provide for an orderly startup and preclude unwarranted power transients associated with a Technical Specification required shutdown at Salem Unit 2.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. R. Powell".

D. R. Powell  
Director - Licensing / Regulation  
and Fuels

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