

NOTICE OF INTENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

PROPOSED RULEMAKING

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE

10 C.F.R. PARTS 50 AND 51

Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) hereby files a Notice of Intent to participate as a full participant in the proposed rulemaking proceeding on Storage and Disposal of Nuclear Waste, 44 Fed. Reg., 61372-61375 (October 25, 1979).

Public Service Electric & Gas is a public utility, engaged in the generation, manufacture, purchase, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity and gas. Its service area extends from the Hudson River opposite New York City to the Delaware River at Trenton and thence to Camden, New Jersey.

Public Service Electric & Gas is involved in the construction or operation of four commercial nuclear light water reactor units of nominal 1000 MWe generating capacity. Salem Unit No. 1, a Westinghouse pressurized water reactor, received an operating license from the NRC in December 1976 (Docket No. 50-272). Construction of Salem Unit No. 2, of identical design to Salem Unit No. 1, is complete. Issuance of an operating license by the NRC (Docket No. 50-311) has been delayed as a result of the Three Mile Island incident. Hope Creek Units 1 and 2, identical GE boiling water reactors, are under construction and scheduled for core load in 1984 and 1986 respectively.

Public Service Electric & Gas owns the Salem and Hope Creek Stations as a tenant in common with the following named companies. The undivided percentages of ownership are listed as follows:

SALEM

PSE&G	42.59%
Philadelphia Electric Co.	42.59%
Delmarva Power & Light Co.	7.41%
Atlantic Electric Co.	7.41%
	<u>100.00%</u>

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HOPE CREEK

PSE&G	95.0%
Atlantic Electric Company	5.0%
	<u>100.0%</u>

Public Service Electric & Gas is responsible for the design, construction and operation of the facilities. All the owners will share the electricity generated therein according to their respective percentages of ownership, supra. This Notice of Intent is filed by PSE&G on its own behalf only.

Nuclear energy provided 24% of the electric energy needs in PSE&G's service territory in 1978. When the Hope Creek units are completed, the percentage will be even higher. Public Service Electric & Gas has an obvious direct interest in any regulatory matters that relate to the question of radioactive waste disposal.

Our position on the issues to be considered at the proceeding are as follows:

The overwhelming consensus of the various Federal studies on radioactive waste disposal is that the radioactive waste can be handled and disposed of safely, with no serious public health and safety or environmental effects. The technology necessary for developing a permanent waste disposal facility exists. The Federal government is proceeding in a cautious, deliberate manner to optimize the development of the necessary repository facilities. In the interim, operators of nuclear facilities have proceeded with plans to expand spent fuel storage facilities on-site to provide for safe interim storage of spent fuel until a Federal repository is available. The NRC licensing process has amply demonstrated that the capacity of spent fuel storage pools can be expanded with no degradation of safety or environmental margins. There is no reason to believe that such fuel could not continue to be safely stored either at a plant site or at some other licensed interim storage location in the very unlikely event that a Federal repository were delayed beyond expiration of the licenses of certain nuclear facilities.