Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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

Gentlemen:

POST-ACCIDENT NEUTRON FLUX MONITORING CONFORMING TO
REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97, REV. 2 AND 10 CFR 50.49
DOCKET NO. 50-354
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) is in receipt of your letter, dated March 16, 1990, requesting our plans regarding the installation of neutron flux monitoring instrumentation that conforms to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.49 and Reg. Guide 197, Revision 2.

PSE&G has followed industry evaluation and equipment development efforts related to the subject requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Flux Monitoring for application at Hope Creek Generating Station. There is very little operating experience with any of the current designs upon which to base a decision involving such a large expenditure. However, based upon the NRC's mandate, our present intention is to implement the subject regulatory requirements by the installation of General Electric Company's **Wide Range Neutron Monitoring System (WRNMS)**. This system offers advantages in the areas of ALARA, operation and maintenance not provided by the alternate, Gammametrics Ex-Core, design.

Recent discussions with GE indicate that the WRNMS has not yet been approved by NRC for use and that certain details of the design requirements relating to Reg. Guide 1.97, Rev. 2 have not been finalized. The BWR Owner's Group (BWROG) and GE are currently working with NRC to close these issues. Since the procurement and installation of the WRNMS is a large project that requires a significant amount of advanced planning, research, and design change development, PSE&G would not be in a position to provide a detailed implementation schedule until the final design is approved by the NRC and the design details are made available to us by the vendor for evaluation.

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Based upon the above, we propose that, within 180 days of NRC approval of the GE WRNMS design, PSE&G will provide a detailed installation schedule.

Should you have any further questions, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

A. E. Bean

C Mr. C. Y. Shiraki
USNRC Licensing Project Manager

Mr. T. P. Johnson
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. T. T. Martin, Administrator
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