



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection and Energy
Division of Environmental Safety, Health and Analytical Programs
CN 415
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Jeanne M. Fox
Acting Commissioner

January 13, 1994

Gerald P. Nicholls, Ph.D.
Director

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Hope Creek Generating Station
Docket Nos. 50-354
Amendment to the Facility Operating License
License Change Request 93-05

The subject request was submitted to the NRC by PSE&G letter dated April 23, 1993 and revised by PSE&G letter dated November 10, 1993. The request proposes to revise the Hope Creek Technical Specifications to lower the maximum allowable value of average river temperature to 88.6 °F and modify associated Limiting Conditions for Operation, Surveillance Requirements and the Bases.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (DEPE) has reviewed the request in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.91(b) and has a comment related to the proposed surveillance requirements.

River water temperature is required to be verified to be within the limit at least once every 24 hours when the river temperature is less than 85 °F. If river temperature is greater than 85 °F, the monitoring frequency is increased to once every two hours. If river temperature reaches 88.6 °F, additional operator actions are required. The proposed Bases for these Surveillance Requirements further explains that operator actions are required by procedure if the river temperature is above 85 °F and a Loss of Offsite Power occurs concurrent with a loss of one loop of the Service Water or the Station Auxiliary Cooling Water Systems.

PSE&G's application states that each day, river temperature varies directly with cyclic tidal surges. In addition, during the hottest days of late July and August, the incoming tide causes warm surface water from estuarine marshes and the discharge from the Salem units to be transported upstream to the Hope Creek intake structure.

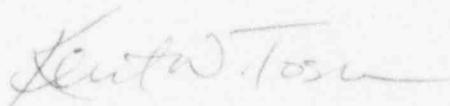
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The proposed monitoring frequency of once per 24 hours would not be sufficient to detect river temperatures above 85 °F caused by an incoming tide that occurs during the surveillance interval. The DEPE recommends more frequent surveillance intervals during the summer when cyclic high temperatures are expected. It is recommended that the Delaware River temperature be monitored more than once per day during the summer months, preferably one-half to one hour after low tide and during mid to late afternoon. These are the times when the river temperature is expected to be the highest.

If you have any questions, please contact Suren Singh at (609) 987-2039 or Rich Pinney at (609) 987-2086.

Sincerely,



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