

December 13, 1995

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

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK RESIDENT INSPECTION NO. 50-354/95-17

Dear Mr. Eliason:

The enclosed report documents an inspection for public health and safety, conducted by Mr. R. Summers, Senior Resident Inspector and other members of the NRC resident and regional staff at the Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station for the period between September 24, 1995 and November 8, 1995. The inspectors discussed the findings of this inspection with Mr. M. Reddemann of your staff.

This report contains inspection findings of the resident inspection staff as well as findings from other inspections which were performed during the time period indicated. The findings from inspectors other than the resident inspectors are provided as attachments to this report with a separate cover which details areas inspected and includes the signatures of the lead inspector and the cognizant branch chief. The overall conclusions will be reflected in the Executive Summary for the complete report. We are taking this approach to better integrate our inspection findings into a consistent regulatory message and more clearly communicate how these findings may reflect a change in your performance.

Based on the results of this inspection, and while noting that no violations of NRC requirements were cited, the NRC is nonetheless concerned about the number of challenges to the plant operators that occurred during the period. The fact that PSE&G management recognizes this problem and has initiated action to improve both facility equipment and operator performance is noteworthy. However, the NRC is interested in understanding the results of these actions. As such, the NRC plans to meet with PSE&G to discuss further the status of improvement actions at Hope Creek accomplished during the refueling and maintenance outage currently in progress at the station.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were cited. No reply to this letter is required. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Mr. Leon R. Eliason

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Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Larry E. Nicholson, Chief
Projects Section No. 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-354/95-17

cc w/encl:

L. Storz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations
E. Simpson, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
E. Salowitz, Director - Nuclear Business Support
C. Schaefer, External Operations - Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.
P. McFarland Goelz, Manager, Joint Generation
Atlantic Electric
R. Burricelli, Director - External Affairs
M. Reddemann, General Manager - Hope Creek Operations
J. Benjamin, Director - Quality Assurance & Nuclear Safety Review
F. Thomson, Manager - Licensing and Regulation
R. Kankus, Joint Owner Affairs
A. C. Tapert, Program Administrator
R. Fryling, Jr., Esquire
M. J. Wetterhahn, Esquire
Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate
William Conklin, Public Safety Consultant, Lower Alloways Creek Township
State of New Jersey
State of Delaware

Mr. Leon R. Eliason

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bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
K. Gallagher
D. Screnci, PAO (2)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
PUBLIC

bcc w/encl: (Via E-Mail)
W. Dean, OEDO
D. Jaffe, Project Manager, NRR
J. Stolz, PDI-2, NRR
Inspection Program Branch, NRR (IPAS)

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