

December 15, 1995

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

SUBJECT: RESTART OF HOPE CREEK

Dear Mr. Eliason:

On November 6, 1995, a management meeting was conducted between the NRC and Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) to discuss your actions to improve Hope Creek station performance during the current refueling outage. At that time, you had not yet developed a comprehensive outage plan that included objectives and a process to ensure that effective corrective actions will be implemented prior to restart. Additionally, in a letter to you, dated December 1, 1995, we requested a management meeting prior to startup in which we would ask you to present your self assessment of the conduct of the outage and your readiness for restart of the unit.

As stated in our December 1 letter, we are concerned that your performance has continued to decline. We view your ongoing outage as an opportunity for you to address the performance deficiencies in your personnel and processes, as well as to improve the material condition of plant equipment. Accordingly, we request that you articulate in a letter to the NRC your basis for concluding that adequate performance improvement will be effected at Hope Creek prior to resumption of operation from your current outage. Your letter should include a discussion of the process you used to develop your outage scope, as well as the methods you are using or intend to use to verify that adequate actions have been taken for equipment, process and personnel deficiencies prior to restart.

Following the submittal of your letter, we intend to conduct a management meeting, as discussed above, in preparation for a subsequent NRC Readiness Assessment Team Inspection. To support our efforts commensurate with your current outage schedule, we request a response no later than January 5, 1996.

Thank you for your cooperation.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Richard W. Cooper, II, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-354

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