



Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Nuclear Department

SEP 08 1988
NLR-E88386

Mr. James Stone
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-137, 14E21
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Stone:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REQUEST FOR REINITIATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION PERTAINING TO SEA TURTLE OCCURRENCES AT PSE&G'S SALEM GENERATING STATION CIRCULATING WATER INTAKE

Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) has recently met with both the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to discuss the occurrence of sea turtles protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) at the Salem Generating Station circulating water intake.

It is our understanding that NMFS has requested reviewing this matter under the provision of Section 401.16 of the ESA Interagency Cooperation regulations. Assuming the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) supports NMFS recommendation to reinitiate a formal "Section 7 Consultation," it is requested that PSE&G be approved to prepare the requisite "biological assessment" for submittal to NMFS. Latitude in allowing a non-federal agency to prepare this document is provided in 50CFR402.12(b). We believe that our involvement with this issue over the past several years will enhance the timely preparation of this document and expedite the NMFS review process. Please advise us if you agree with having PSE&G prepare this "biological assessment" as soon as possible.

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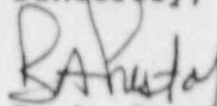
Mr. James Stone

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Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact James M. Eggers of my staff at 609/339-5015.

Sincerely,



B. A. Preston
Manager - Licensing and
Regulation

C D. C. Fischer - USNRC
D. C. Crestin - NMFS