

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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NOV 18 1997

LR-N970746

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

REVISION TO COMMITMENT

**NRC BULLETIN 96-03, POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING
SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING WATER REACTORS**

**HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354**

Gentlemen:

By letter dated July 18, 1997 Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) committed to sample the torus sludge during the current refueling outage. The purpose of the samples was to obtain a better value for sludge density and to determine total sludge loading in the torus. This information was to be used to determine the sludge accumulation rate per cycle for Hope Creek and to provide for accurate torus inspection acceptance criteria. As part of the torus inspections conducted during each refueling outage, the acceptance criteria are used to decide whether torus cleaning is required. The acceptance criteria serve to ensure the total sludge loading could not threaten ECCS suction strainer performance during the subsequent operating cycle.

The samples taken while the torus was being cleaned during the current outage were not of sufficient size to provide accurate estimates of sludge density or total accumulation. As a result, PSE&G is revising its commitment to determine total sludge loading from the current refueling outage to the next refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin in mid-February 1999. This schedule for completing the determination of plant specific sludge generation rate is consistent with the guidance contained in the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group Utility Resolution Guidance (URG) for ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage.

This delay in determining actual sludge loading will have no adverse effect on the safety of plant operation since the Hope Creek torus was thoroughly desludged during the current refueling outage. In addition, no fibers were found in the samples of torus sludge taken during the current outage.

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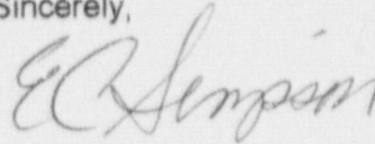
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Based upon the plant specific sludge generation rate determined in the next refueling outage, torus cleaning will be performed at a frequency to ensure the assumed sludge loading for the replacement ECCS suction strainers is not exceeded.

Should you have any questions regarding this transmittal, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



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