

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

Steven E. Miltenberger

Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236, Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038 609-339-4199

Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer

September 11, 1989
NLR-N89188

Reference: LCR 89-16

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

Gentlemen:

REQUEST FOR EXIGENT AMENDMENT
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-57
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-354

In accordance with the provisions of 10CFR50.91(a)(6), Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) hereby requests exigent treatment of our previously submitted request for amendment regarding Technical Specification Design Sections 5.3.1, Fuel Assemblies, and 5.3.2, Control Rod Assemblies.

In a letter dated May 18, 1989, PSE&G requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-57, Technical Specifications (TS) Sections 3/4.2, B3/4.2, 5.3.1 and 5.3.2. TS Section 3/4.2 and the associated Bases dealt with fuel cycle-specific operating limits and Design Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 contained constraints on fuel and control rod assemblies, respectively.

In a subsequent mid-August meeting, NRC staff indicated that our amendment requests dealing with the fuel cycle-related TS Design Section and the fuel cycle-specific operating limit TS should be separately submitted. Accordingly, on August 21, 1989, PSE&G submitted separate requests for changes to TS Section 3/4.2 and B3/4.2 for fuel cycle-specific operating limits, and NLR-N89161, (LCR 89-16) containing a revised request for amendment of TS Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.

The original request for amendment that would authorize the use of improved-design fuel assemblies and control rod assemblies was submitted in a timely manner to support a core load utilizing ASEA ATOM hafnium-tipped control rod assemblies during the

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upcoming refueling outage. Our resubmittal (LCR89-16) is considered to contain substantive changes from our first request, thereby requiring re-publishing in the Federal Register.

Regarding 10CFR50.91(a)(6)(vi), PSE&G could not have reasonably anticipated the above delays encountered in resubmittal and re-publishing of our request; and now, absent an expedited review and approval of the LCR89-16 by September 28, 1989 (the scheduled date for commencing installation of the Hafnium-tipped control rods), there will be a significant delay in core loading operations, a lengthening of the refueling outage and, therefore, considerable delay in the resumption of operation of the plant.

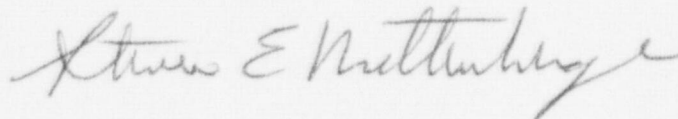
Hope Creek Generating Station policy requires that, prior to loading the fuel or control rods into the core, all procedures and the Technical Specification specifying design details regarding those components be correct. Therefore, the modified wording for Design Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 must be in place to permit core loading to commence.

As detailed in our request for amendment, PSE&G has determined that operation of the plant with the requested changes will involve neither a significant hazards consideration nor will it affect the ability of any of the plant's physical barriers to limit or control a release to the environment. Since the accident analyses bound any consequences associated with our proposed change, it will not result in a significant environmental impact and thereby, meets the requirements for categorical exclusion under 10CFR51.22.

Pursuant to 10CFR50.4(b)(2)(ii), this submittal includes one (1) signed original and thirty-seven (37) copies and, in accordance with 10CFR50.91(b)(1), PSE&G has provided a copy to the State of New Jersey.

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

Sincerely,



Affidavit

C Mr. W. T. Russell, Administrator
USNRC Region I

Mr. C. Y. Shiraki
USNRC Licensing Project Manager

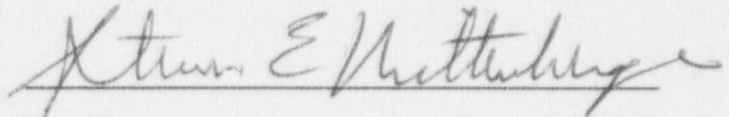
Mr. G. W. Meyer
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. K. Tosch, Chief,
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

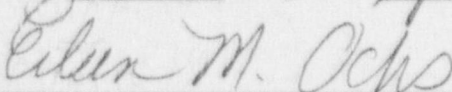
STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SALEM)

S. Miltenberger, being duly sworn according to law deposes and says:

I am Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer of Public Service Electric and Gas Company, and as such, I find the matters set forth in our letter dated September 11, 1989, concerning the Hope Creek Generating Station, are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Subscribed and Sworn to before me
this 11th day of September, 1989



Notary Public of New Jersey EILEEN M. OCHS
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires July 16, 1992

My Commission expires on _____