



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 1, 1999

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Chief Nuclear Officer & President -
Nuclear Business Unit
Public Service Electric & Gas
Company
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION, RE: REVISIONS TO THE UFSAR -
PAST AND FUTURE COMPLIANCE WITH 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) (TAC NO. M72427)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Subsection 50.71(e)(4) specifies the schedular requirements whereby licensees are to submit revisions to their Updated Final Safety Analysis Reports (UFSARs). It requires revisions to be made "...annually or 6 months after each refueling outage provided the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months." In a 1997 survey we found numerous incidents of noncompliance by licensees of both single- and multi-unit plants with this schedular requirement. In many cases, licensees for multi-unit sites were basing their UFSAR submissions on the outage schedule of one unit.

We understand that some confusion about the proper interpretation of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) may have been caused by an NRC staff letter to Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) dated June 15, 1993, which endorsed a submission schedule proposed by ComEd for its plants. Neither ComEd's proposed schedule nor the staff's endorsement were in literal compliance with 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). Nevertheless, many licensees adopted the staff position expressed in the June 15, 1993, letter and thus deviated from the schedular requirements of this regulation. Recently, the staff granted exemptions to the ComEd plants. The transmittal letter (D. Skay to O. D. Kingsley, dated July 27, 1999) states that "this [Skay] letter and the enclosed exemptions supersede our letter of June 15, 1993."

We note that you have not requested a schedular exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) for Hope Creek Generating Station. This may indicate that either you intend to comply with the correct interpretation of the regulation, or you may have incorrectly interpreted the regulation in the past. The purpose of this letter is to clarify any misunderstanding of this regulation. We will exercise enforcement discretion, in accordance with Section VII.B.6 of the NRC Enforcement Policy, for any incidents of past violation of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). In the future we will enforce the schedular requirements as prescribed, or as modified by an exemption for Hope Creek Generating Station.

REF. COPY CENTER COPY

DFBI

H. Keiser

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There is no need to respond to this letter. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R B Ennis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "B".

Richard B. Ennis, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire
Nuclear Business Unit - N21
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Hope Creek Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Drawer 0509
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Louis Storz
Sr. Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Department
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

General Manager - Hope Creek Operations
Hope Creek Generating Station
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Director - Licensing Regulation & Fuels
Nuclear Business Unit - N21
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Asst. Director
Radiation Protection Programs
NJ Department of Environmental
Protection and Energy
CN 415
Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Manager - Joint Generation
Atlantic Energy
6801 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234-4130

Richard Hartung
Electric Service Evaluation
Board of Regulatory Commissioners
2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Lower Alloways Creek Township
c/o Mary O. Henderson, Clerk
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Elbert Simpson
Senior Vice President-
Nuclear Engineering
Nuclear Department
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

H. Keiser

- 2 -

There is no need to respond to this letter. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Richard B. Ennis, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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