

October 31, 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: AUTHORIZATION TO USE ASME SECTION XI CODE CASE N-546, SALEM  
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2, AND HOPE CREEK  
GENERATING STATION (TAC NOS. MA6447, MA6448, AND MA6465)

Dear Mr. Keiser:

In a letter dated September 8, 1999, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) requested, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approve the use of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Section XI, Code Case N-546, "Alternative Requirements for Qualification of VT-2 Examination Personnel, Section XI, Division 1." This Code Case provides an alternative to the qualification and certification requirements of subsection IWA-2300 to Section XI for personnel who would conduct VT-2 visual examinations.

The NRC staff has evaluated your request and has determined that the alternatives to the ASME Section XI qualification requirements for visual examination personnel will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Accordingly, the alternatives contained in ASME Code Case N-546 are authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations until such time as this Code Case is approved by reference in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147. At that time, if you intend to continue to implement Code Case N-546, you must follow all provisions in Code Case N-546 with the limitations issued in RG 1.147, if any. A copy of the NRC's safety evaluation is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Milano at 301-415-1457 or Richard Ennis at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272, 50-311, and 50-354  
Enclosure: Safety Evaluation  
cc w/encl: See next page

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OFFICE	PDI/PM	PDI/PM	PDI/LA	EMCB/SC	OGC	PDVSC
NAME	PDMilano:icc	REnnis	TLCClark	ESullivan	R.Buchanan	JClifford
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PDR ADOCK

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OFFICE	PDI/PM	PDI/PM	PDI/LA	EMCB/SC	OGC	PDVSC
NAME	PDMilano:lcc	REnnis	TClark	ESullivan	R. R. ...	JClifford
DATE	10/21/99	10/29/99	10/21/99	10/21/99	10/28/99	10/13/99

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 31, 1999

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Public Service Electric & Gas  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James W. Clifford".

James W. Clifford, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-272, 50-311, and 50-354

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, and Hope Creek Generating Station

cc:

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