

January 3, 1999

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PSEG Nuclear LLC
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT**

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On December 13, 1999, the NRC staff reviewed the plant performance of the Hope Creek Nuclear Plant during June 1 - November 30, 1999, as reflected in the performance indicators and inspection results, in order to integrate performance information and to plan for inspection activities at your facility through July 31, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Our review of performance at Hope Creek noted that all performance indicators (PIs) and inspection areas were green (licensee response band). Therefore, we plan to perform only baseline inspections at Hope Creek over the next seven months. The Salem emergency preparedness (EP) program, a program common to Hope Creek, did have a white inspection finding (increased regulatory response band). The performance issue in the EP area related to untimely declaration of emergency events and was described in NRC Inspection Reports 05000272 & 0500031/99009 and 05000354/99007, both dated December 28, 1999. In addition, up until October 1999, there were two Hope Creek PIs which exceeded the white threshold (i.e., *Protected Area Security Equipment Performance Index* and *Safety System Unavailability, RCIC*), but these PIs were based on performance concerns which had been previously addressed.

This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from the Hope Creek mid-cycle performance review. Enclosure 1 lists the scheduled inspections that are planned through July 31, 2000. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff, and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspectors arriving onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last few months of the inspection plan are tentative and will be addressed at the end-of-cycle performance review in April 2000, which we expect to issue to you in May 2000.

Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Glenn Meyer at 610/337-5211 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Glenn W. Meyer, Chief
Projects Branch No. 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000354

License No. NPF-57

Enclosures: 1. Hope Creek Nuclear Plant Scheduled Inspections (January 1 - July 31, 2000)
2. Plant Issue Matrix

cc w/encls:

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E. Simpson, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer
M. Bezilla, Vice President - Nuclear Operations
D. Garchow, Vice President - Technical Support
M. Trum, Vice President - Maintenance
T. O'Connor, Vice President - Plant Support
E. Salowitz, Director - Nuclear Business Support
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A. F. Kirby, III, External Operations - Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.
J. McMahan, Director - QA/Nuclear Training/Emergency Preparedness
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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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