December 23, 1999

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-354/99-08

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On October 28, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection of your Hope Creek facility. This inspection encompassed both a baseline problem identification and resolution inspection and a review of recent problems in the licensed operator training area. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. The preliminary findings were presented to PSEG management on October 28, 1999 and a final exit was held on November 23, 1999.

This inspection was a review of activities conducted under your license as related to identification and resolution of problems; licensed operator training qualification and effectiveness; compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations; and, with the conditions of your license. Within these areas the inspection consisted of a selected examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel. Negative findings were assessed using the significance determination process; all findings either "screened out" of the process or were determined to be within the licensee response band (Green).

Based upon the sample reviewed during this inspection, your identification of issues was appropriately being captured in your corrective action process. No significant findings were identified. However, as identified by your staff and the NRC, human performance issues, including failure to follow procedures, are of concern. A number of human performance issues have occurred throughout all departments at the station over the past couple of years. The NRC recognizes that you have rolled up all previously issued human performance problems into two station "notification reports" and that you are currently assessing the problem. Your actions in addressing these issues are subject to future NRC inspection activities.

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PDR ADOCK

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY BRIAN E. HOLIAN FOR:

Wayne D. Lanning, Director Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-354/99-08

cc w/encl:

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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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J. McMahon, Director - QA/Nuclear Training/Emergency Preparedness

R. Kankus, Joint Owner Affairs

A. Tapert, Program Administrator

J. J. Keenan, Esquire

Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate

W. Conklin, Public Safety Consultant, Lower Alloways Creek Township

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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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