

January 10, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: BiWeekly Notice Coordinator

FROM: Richard B. Ennis, Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION IN BI-WEEKLY FR NOTICE -
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE, PROPOSED NO
SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION,
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING (TAC NO. MA7796)

Public Service Electric & Gas Company, Docket No. 50-354, Hope Creek Generating
Station, Salem County, New Jersey

Date of amendment request: December 27, 1999

Description of amendment request: The proposed amendment would revise Technical
Specifications (TS) 4.6.2.2.b, "Suppression Pool Spray," and 4.6.2.3.b, "Suppression Pool
Cooling," to modify the acceptance criteria associated with flow rate testing of the Residual
Heat Removal (RHR) system pumps.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: As required by
10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant
hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed changes do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed TS change does not involve any physical changes to plant structures, systems or components (SSC). The RHR system will continue to function as designed. The RHR system is designed to mitigate the consequences of an accident, and therefore, can not contribute to the initiation of any accident. The proposed TS surveillance requirement changes implement testing methods that more appropriately control and reflect RHR operation and establish acceptance criteria, which ensure that Hope Creek's licensing and design basis assumptions are met. In addition,

this proposed TS change will not increase the probability of occurrence of a malfunction of any plant equipment important to safety, since the manner in which the RHR system is operated is not affected by these proposed changes. The proposed surveillance requirement acceptance criteria ensure that the RHR safety functions will be accomplished. Therefore, the proposed TS changes would not result in the increase of the consequences of an accident previously evaluated, nor do they involve an increase in the probability of an accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed TS changes do not involve any physical changes to the design of any plant SSC. The design and operation of the RHR system is not changed from that currently described in Hope Creek's licensing basis. The RHR system will continue to function as designed to mitigate the consequences of an accident. Implementing the proposed changes does not result in plant operation in a configuration that would create a different type of malfunction to the RHR system than any previously evaluated. In addition, the proposed TS changes do not alter the conclusions described in Hope Creek's licensing basis regarding the safety related functions of this system.

Therefore, the proposed TS change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed changes contained in this submittal would implement testing methods that adequately demonstrate RHR pump capability and establish acceptance criteria consistent with Hope Creek's licensing basis. The ability of RHR to perform its safety functions is not adversely affected by these proposed changes. Therefore, the proposed TS change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

BiWeekly Notice Coordinator

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