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Gentlemen:

**2000 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

The attached 2000 Annual Environmental Operating Report is hereby submitted pursuant to Subsection 5.4.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan (Non-radiological) for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. The Environmental Protection Plan is Appendix B to Facility Operation License DPR-70 and DPR-75 (Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabor Salamon" followed by a small flourish.

Gabor Salamon
Manager- Nuclear Safety & Licensing

/dkh
Attachment (1)

Handwritten initials in black ink, possibly "JES" or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

APR 30 2001

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2000 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
(NON-RADIOLOGICAL)
January 1 through December 31, 2000

SALEM GENERATION STATION
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311
OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-70 AND DPR-75

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APRIL 2001

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This 2000 Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) is submitted in accordance with Section 5.4.1 of the Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), Non-radiological (Appendix B to Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75, Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311, respectively).

This is the 12th AEOR submitted under the EPP and covers Salem Unit No. 1 and Salem Unit No. 2 for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2000. During 2000, Salem Unit No. 1 and 2 generated a combined total of 17,334,360 megawatt-hours of net electrical energy.

As required by Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP, we have included summaries and analyses of the results of all required environmental protection activities. This information is described in Section 2.0. Section 3.0 addresses the issues of EPP compliance. Changes to station design or operation and the review for potentially significant unreviewed environmental questions are addressed in Section 4.0. Unusual and/or important environmental events are discussed in Section 5.0.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 AQUATIC MONITORING ISSUES

Subsection 4.2.1 of the EPP references the Clean Water Act as a mechanism for protecting aquatic biota through water quality monitoring. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) relies on the State of New Jersey, acting under the authority of the Clean Water Act, to insure applicable requirements for aquatic monitoring are implemented. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is the State's regulatory agency.

The NJDEP requires as part of the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit program that effluent monitoring be performed, with the results summarized and submitted monthly on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. The monitoring is intended to determine compliance with the effluent limitations of the station's NJPDES permit (No. NJ0005622). We have reviewed the DMRs corresponding to the 2000 AEOR reporting period and have determined that no significant deviations have occurred. We have observed no evidence of trends towards damage to the environment. Copies of monthly DMRs are routinely sent to USNRC's Document Control Desk and additional copies are available upon request.

PSEG NUCLEAR is implementing the September 1, 1994 NJPDES permit for Salem which requires, among other things, water intake screen modifications and wetland restoration and enhancement. Under the 1994 permit, which remains in effect until such time as a renewed permit is issued, PSEG NUCLEAR is continuing to restore wetlands and to conduct the requisite management and monitoring associated with the implementation of the Special Conditions of the permit. The existing permit remains in full force and effect based on the timely submission of the renewal application. On December 8, 2000, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued a Draft NJPDES Permit for Salem Generating Station. The Draft Permit proposes effluent limitations applicable to the Station's outfalls and special conditions to address §316(a) and §316(b). The Draft Permit, in general terms, proposes to: authorize the continued operation of the Station with the existing once-through cooling water system; renew the Station's §316(a) variance; require additional measures and/or studies of potentially applicable measures to minimize losses associated with the cooling water intake structure; require an enhanced biological monitoring program; and require PSEG to demonstrate in its renewal application the increased productivity associated with the wetlands restoration and fish ladder installation. Public and interested party comments were accepted by the NJDEP through March 14, 2001. The NJDEP is presently reviewing the comments submitted and is expected to issue a Final NJPDES Permit upon completion of review and resolution of those comments.

Additionally, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) modified the docket that pertains to the NJPDES permit. The original docket had an expiration date of September 30, 2000. The modified docket allows for a six-month review period from the date the NJDEP issues the final NJPDES permit. The DRBC docket modification was approved in December 1999.

While the USNRC relies on the State of New Jersey and the NJDEP for protection of the water quality, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) maintains regulatory authority with respect to certain migratory threatened and endangered aquatic species. As required by Amendments 129 and 108 to the Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-70 and DPR-75 and the Section 7 Consultation, Biological Opinion, Salem Generating Station conducted inspections of the circulating water intake trash bars at least every two hours during the 2000 sea turtle season. In 2000, one shortnose sturgeon was recovered dead at the circulating water intake trash bars on April 18, 2000. The sturgeon had one vertical wound directly behind the right gill and two large gashes on the top and right side of the body. The wounds appear to have been inflicted prior to removal from the trash racks. The sturgeon was dead at the time of recovery and was disposed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the current Incidental Take Statement.

A dead sea turtle was removed from the circulating water intake trash bars. The sea turtle was recovered on July 12, 2000. The sea turtle was severely decomposed with the front third of the animal missing and appeared to have been completely severed by a clean, diagonal cut suggestive of a propeller cut. The three remaining flippers were checked for tags and none were present. The sea turtle was identified as a Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). Due to the badly decomposed condition, the death of this sea turtle was clearly not related to plant operation. The sea turtle was disposed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the current Incidental Take Statement.

A live sea turtle was recovered from the circulating water intake trash bars. The sea turtle was recovered unharmed on August 31, 2000. The sea turtle was identified as a Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and except for one old propeller cut was in excellent condition. The sea turtle was photographed, examined, measured and weighed. Flipper tags were attached to both front flippers. Tag number QQP000 was attached to the right front flipper and tag number QQP975 was attached to the left front flipper. The sea turtle was released into the Delaware River approximately three miles south of Artificial Island.

The appropriate notifications were performed to report the impingement of these species.

2.2 TERRESTRIAL ISSUES

PSEG NUCLEAR continues to monitor the osprey population in a joint effort with the NJDEP.

3.0 EPP COMPLIANCE STATUS

3.1 EPP NONCOMPLIANCES

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of EPP noncompliances and the corrective actions taken to remedy them. No significant environmental impacts attributable to the operation of Salem Generating Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2 were observed during 2000.

3.2 REVIEW

Subsection 5.1 of the EPP for Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, requires that an independent review of compliance with the EPP be maintained and

made available for inspection. The EPP was reviewed as part of the Self-Assessment Program in 1999.

4.0 CHANGES IN STATION DESIGN OR OPERATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.1 of the EPP for Salem Unit Nos. 1 and 2, station design changes and operation performance of tests or experiments, for the AEOR covered time period, were reviewed for potential environmental impact. None of the recommended changes posed a potential to significantly affect the environment, therefore, none involved an unreviewed environmental question or a change in the EPP.

5.0 NONROUTINE REPORTS

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of all nonroutine reports (submitted in accordance with Subsection 5.4.2 of the EPP) be included as part of the Annual Environmental Operating Report.

Salem Generating Station experienced no unusual or important events that indicated or could have resulted in a "significant environmental impact" during the 2000 reporting period.

