



DEC 21 2001 LRN-01-0432

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

**REVISION TO COMMITMENT
BULLETIN 88-08
THERMAL STRESS IN PIPING CONNECTED TO
THE REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM
SALEM GENERATING STATION
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

In accordance with the PSEG Nuclear Commitment Management program and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) process for managing Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) commitments and associated NRC notification, this letter is being submitted to inform the NRC of a commitment change relative to NRC Bulletin 88-08, "Thermal Stresses in Piping Connected to the Reactor Coolant System" (B88-08). PSEG Nuclear (PSEG) will perform plant modifications during the upcoming refueling outages (2R12 – Spring 2002 and 1R15 – Fall of 2002 for Salem Units 2 and 1, respectively) that will eliminate the need to continue to perform leakage testing. PSEG will install double valve isolation in the affected lines, thus eliminating the leakage path concern identified by Bulletin 88-08.

As stated in NRC SER dated August 15, 1995, PSEG committed to implement a leakage-monitoring program. Specifically for the safety injection lines, PSEG committed to maintain the valves upstream of the Boron Injection Tank (BIT) (SJ4 and SJ5) normally open and the valves downstream of the BIT (SJ12 and SJ13) normally closed. PSEG also committed to demonstrate that leakage past the downstream isolation valves is below the acceptance criterion of 0.05 gpm at the end of each refueling outage and then on a quarterly basis during Operational Modes 1, 2 and 3.

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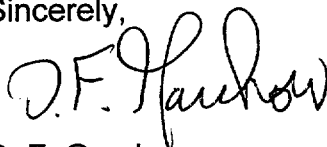
PSEG has performed these tests with satisfactory results since the return of the Salem units from their extended shutdown. Prior to this time frame (1995) only 4 tests indicated any type of leakage over a period of 6 years (1989 to 1995). All identified leakage was corrected as committed in the B88-08 response. Additionally, PSEG has performed calculations to determine the limiting leak rate through valves SJ12 and SJ13. Results of this calculation show that the limiting SJ12/SJ13 leak rate is 0.12 gpm for continuous leakage during one operating cycle (18-months). This leak rate is approximately 2.5 times greater than the acceptance criterion of 0.05 gpm.

Accordingly, PSEG is modifying its commitment to perform leakage testing on a quarterly basis during Operational Modes 1, 2 and 3. Our new commitment is to perform leakage testing once per refueling outage (approximately every 18 months), prior to resumption of power operations. This change allows PSEG to eliminate the performance of one leakage test in Salem Unit 2 and two leakage tests in Salem Unit 1 prior to entering their respective refueling outages, at which point the plant modifications will be performed.

Based on the above, PSEG has concluded that performing the test every 18-months continues to assure the ability of the Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS) to perform its safety function

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact E. Villar at (856) 339-5456.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. F. Garchow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

D. F. Garchow
Vice President - Operations

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LRN-01-0432

-3-

DEC 21 2001

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