

December 14, 2004

Mr. A. Christopher Bakken, III  
President & Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear - X15  
P.O. Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2, REQUEST FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE  
RISK-INFORMED INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM (TAC NO. MC3854)

Dear Mr. Bakken:

By letter dated July 12, 2004, PSEG Nuclear LLC, the licensee for the Salem Generation Station (SGS), Unit No. 2, requested approval to continue the use of its alternative risk-informed inservice inspection (RI-ISI) program for the SGS, Unit No. 2 inservice inspection program. The proposed RI-ISI program at SGS is limited to certain American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Class 1 and 2 welds.

The SGS RI-ISI program was developed in accordance with Electric Power Research Institute Topical Report TR-112657, Revision B-A, using the Nuclear Energy Institute's template methodology. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has been reviewing the application and has determined that additional information, as delineated in the Enclosure, is required in order to complete our review.

Please provide your response within 15 days from receipt of this letter. If circumstances result in the need to revise the response date, please contact me at (301) 415-1494.

Sincerely

***/RA by Robert Fretz for/***

Daniel S. Collins, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-311

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REGARDING APPROVAL TO EXTEND  
THE RISK-INFORMED INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM  
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 2  
DOCKET NO. 50-311

By letter dated July 12, 2004, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG), the licensee for the Salem Generation Station (SGS), Unit No. 2, requested approval to continue the use of its alternative risk-informed inservice inspection (RI-ISI) program for the SGS, Unit No. 2 inservice inspection (ISI) program. The proposed RI-ISI program at SGS is limited to certain American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) Class 1 and 2 welds.

The SGS RI-ISI program was developed in accordance with Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Topical Report TR-112657, Revision B-A, using the Nuclear Energy Institute's template methodology. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been reviewing the application and has determined that the following information is required in order to complete our review.

1. Discuss and provide information on any welds that were selected for inspection in the RI-ISI program, approved by the NRC staff in Reference 1, that have been removed from the population of welds that will be inspected during the third ten-year ISI interval.
2. Discuss and provide information on any welds that were not selected for inspection in the RI-ISI program, approved by the NRC staff in Reference 1, that have been added to the population of welds that will be inspected during the third ten-year ISI interval.
3. Explain any methods of inspection changes for any of the welds in the licensee's RI-ISI program since its approval by the NRC staff in Reference 1.
4. Given recent and ongoing industry events involving welds that contain filler metal Alloy 82/182, provide a description of any welds, covered under the RI-ISI program that contain Alloy 82/182 filler metal. In addition, indicate the level of inspection the Alloy 82/182 filler metal receive under the SGS RI-ISI program. If these welds do not receive a surface examination and 100% volumetric examination, please justify the inspection methods used.
5. Based on Section 4 of Reference 2, you stated that, as a minimum, risk-ranking of piping segments will be reviewed and adjusted on an ASME Code period basis. Please provide a discussion on the potential change in risk between the RI-ISI program proposed for implementation in the third ISI interval and the ASME Section XI requirements from which relief was granted in Reference 1. Furthermore, if inspections were discontinued or relocated between the second and third ISI intervals' RI-ISI programs, provide an estimate of the change in risk. Finally, provide assurance that the total change in risk and system level change in risk estimates for the proposed third ISI interval program are within the acceptance guidelines of Reference 3.

References:

1. Letter from James W. Clifford, NRC, to Roy A. Anderson, PSEG, "Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 - Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection Program" (TAC Nos. MB7537 and MB7538), October 1, 2003.
2. Letter from John Carlin, PSEG, to NRC, "Request for Authorization to Use a Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection Alternative to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section XI Requirements for Class 1 and 2 Piping, Salem Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311", dated January 21, 2003.
3. EPRI TR-112657, Revision B-A, *Revised Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection Evaluation Procedure*, Final Report, December 1999.