

March 1, 2006

Mr. William Levis  
Senior Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear LLC - X04  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION - WITHDRAWAL OF AMENDMENT  
REQUEST FOR EXTENDED POWER UPRATE (TAC NO. MC8839)

Dear Mr. Levis:

By letter dated February 10, 2006, PSEG Nuclear LLC (PSEG or the licensee) withdrew its request for an extended power uprate (EPU) for the Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Hope Creek). The licensee applied for an EPU on November 7, 2005. In a conference call on February 2, 2006, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff informed PSEG that certain areas of the application lacked sufficient information for the staff to complete its review. The NRC staff's primary concern was the licensee's evaluations of the structural integrity of components that are subjected to higher flow rates at EPU conditions (the steam dryers in particular). The NRC staff identified these concerns during its acceptance review of the EPU application. The staff had discussed its concerns with PSEG on January 12, 2006, at which time PSEG agreed to revise its analyses. PSEG's February 10, 2006, letter includes a summary of the actions PSEG plans to take in response to the NRC staff's concerns.

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge PSEG's withdrawal of the EPU application for Hope Creek and to inform you that the NRC staff's efforts under TAC No. MC8839 have been discontinued. Also, PSEG has expressed an interest in meeting with the NRC staff to discuss the results of the acceptance review in support of PSEG's plans to resubmit the EPU request at a later date. The NRC staff will support the meeting, and other requested preapplication activities, under a new TAC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1321 or at [snb@nrc.gov](mailto:snb@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stewart N. Bailey, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

cc: See next page

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