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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 1, 2011

Mr. Thomas Joyce  
President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
PSEG Nuclear, LLC  
P.O. Box 236, N09  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION - TRANSMITTAL OF DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT RE: OPERATION WITH FINAL FEEDWATER TEMPERATURE REDUCTION AND FEEDWATER HEATERS OUT-OF-SERVICE (TAC NO. ME4786)

Dear Mr. Joyce:

By letter dated September 22, 2010, as supplemented by letter dated April 28, 2011, PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG, the licensee) submitted a proposed license amendment for Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS). The proposed amendment would allow HCGS to operate at a reduced feedwater temperature for purposes of extending the normal fuel cycle. The amendment would also allow operation with feedwater heaters out-of-service at any time during the operating cycle. In addition, the amendment would revise surveillance requirements related to testing of the Oscillation Power Range Monitor.

Enclosed is the draft Safety Evaluation (SE) that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared to support the proposed license amendment. Pursuant to Section 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), we have made a preliminary determination that the enclosed draft SE does not contain proprietary information. However, since the NRC's review was based largely on review of proprietary information, the NRC staff requests that the licensee confirm that the draft SE does not contain any information that is considered proprietary. If you believe that any information is proprietary, please identify such information line-by-line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390. The NRC staff requests that PSEG provide comments regarding the proprietary content in the draft SE within 5 business days from the date of this letter. The response timeframe was discussed with Mr. Paul Duke of your staff on August 31, 2011.

Since the NRC review is not yet complete, this letter and the enclosure do not convey or represent an NRC staff position regarding the licensee's request. Should the amendment be approved, the NRC staff will issue a publicly available, nonproprietary version of the SE.

***Enclosure transmitted herewith contains  
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T. Joyce

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

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

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-354

Enclosure:  
Draft SE

cc w/o encl: Distribution via Listserv

T. Joyce

- 2 -

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1420.

Sincerely,

*/ra/*

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-2  
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