



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BLVD., SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-2713

September 2, 2014

EA-14-082

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

SUBJECT: NRC INVESTIGATION REPORT NO. 1-2013-026

Dear Mr. Joyce:

This letter refers to an investigation by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) conducted at PSEG Nuclear LLC's (PSEG's) Salem Nuclear Generating Station. The investigation, which was completed on May 9, 2014, was conducted to determine whether a Salem employee who was enrolled in an initial licensing training (ILT) class as a senior reactor operator (SRO) candidate, deliberately failed to disclose medically disqualifying information during the initial access authorization process.

Based on the evidence gathered during the OI investigation, the NRC has concluded that the employee deliberately failed to disclose medically disqualifying information to PSEG. Specifically, the employee failed to disclose information pertaining to his mental health condition during his June 27, 2012, clinical interview and provided inaccurate answers to questions pertaining to his mental health on his medical history form, a form required to be completed for a position as an SRO candidate.

The employee testified to OI that he did not disclose the information regarding his mental health history because he considered the information to be personal in nature and thought it was not required to be disclosed. In addition, the employee testified that by disclosing his mental health history the hiring process could have been delayed and that he was interested in expediting the process.

Based on the above, the NRC has concluded that the employee deliberately provided PSEG information that he knew was inaccurate and incomplete in some respect material to the NRC when he failed to disclose during a June 27, 2012, clinical interview his full history of mental illness and hospitalizations related to that illness and when he failed to disclose his mental health history in a medical form, required for a position as an SRO candidate. The information is material because it was used to make a trustworthiness and reliability determination and to determine the appropriate unescorted access status for the individual.

In addition to the OI investigation, on July 2, 2014, the NRC conducted an on-site inspection of the access authorization program at Salem as it applied to the approval for unescorted access of an individual with potentially disqualifying medical information. The inspection consisted of an examination of selected procedures and records as related to the employee who provided incomplete and inaccurate information to PSEG. The inspection did not identify any significant weaknesses in the implementation of the access authorization program at Salem. The access authorization program at Salem was implemented in accordance with NRC requirements.

After reviewing the specific circumstances regarding this issue, the NRC is not taking any enforcement action against PSEG. You are not required to respond to this letter. However, should you choose to respond, your response should be sent to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Regional Administrator, Region I, 2100 Renaissance Boulevard, Suite 100, King of Prussia, PA 19406, and marked "Open by Addressee Only," within 30 days of the date of this letter, with a copy to the NRC Senior Resident Inspector at Salem.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room and from the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Glenn Dentel at 610-337-5233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ho K. Nieh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ho K. Nieh, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-272, 50-311
License No. DPR-70, DPR- 75

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In addition to the OI investigation, on July 2, 2014, the NRC conducted an on-site inspection of the access authorization program at Salem as it applied to the approval for unescorted access of an individual with potentially disqualifying medical information. The inspection consisted of an examination of selected procedures and records as related to the employee who provided incomplete and inaccurate information to PSEG. The inspection did not identify any significant weaknesses in the implementation of the access authorization program at Salem. The access authorization program at Salem was implemented in accordance with NRC requirements.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Ho K. Nieh, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-272, 50-311
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