

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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Senior Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

OCT 17 1995

LR-N95180

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
USE OF ASME CODE CASE N498-2
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-354**

In our letter LR-N95155, dated September 20, 1995, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) stated that there were system pressure tests required in accordance with ASME Code Case N498-1 which was previously approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for our use, that would be impractical due to four hour hold times specified in the Code Case. That submittal requested NRC's approval to use ASME Code Case N498-2, which does not have the four hour hold requirement for the same testing. This letter identifies the specific Hope Creek Generating Station systems for which the four hour hold times present a problem and provides the reasons for our request.

Code Case N498-1 requires that, because the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) and Reactor Core Isolation Cooling (RCIC) systems are insulated, system pressure tests must include a four hour hold time at nominal operating pressure. This would require running the HPCI and the RCIC pumps each for four hours or more. However, performing the testing in this manner can cause the average suppression pool temperature to exceed the TS Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO).

The required system pressure tests on the HPCI and RCIC systems are conducted in conjunction with normal 90 day HPCI and RCIC pump Technical Specifications (TS) surveillance ASME Section XI tests. During these tests, the pumps normally operate for less than 30 minutes. The pumps are steam driven (thus requiring that they be run in OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS 1, 2 or 3 where there is sufficient steam pressure) and the exhausting steam is directed into the suppression chamber. Hope Creek TS 3.6.2.1.a.2a, in OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS 1, 2 and 3, requires that the suppression pool average water temperature not exceed 105°F during testing

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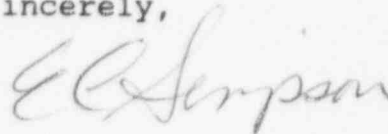
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to the suppression chamber. Operating these pumps for four hours or more can raise the suppression pool temperature above the TS limit.

Therefore, PSE&G requests NRC approval, specifically for the HPCI and RCIC systems, to use the provisions of Code Case N498-2 to conduct the required pressure tests on those systems.

Should you have any additional questions on this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



C Mr. T. T. Martin, Administrator
USNRC Region I

Mr. D. H. Jaffe
USNRC Senior Licensing Project Manager - Hope Creek

Mr. R. W. Summers
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector - Hope Creek (X24)

Mr. K. Tosch, Manager IV,
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