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Nuclear Business Unit

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Gentlemen:

1996 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354

The attached 1996 Annual Environmental Operating Report is hereby submitted pursuant to Subsection 5.4.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan (Non-radiological) for Hope Creek Generating Station. The Environmental Protection Plan is Appendix B to Facility Operating License NPF-57 (Docket No. 50-354).

Sincerely,

D. R. Powell
Manager -
Licensing and Regulation

Attachment (1)

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The power is in your hands.



APR 10 1997

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1996 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
(NON-RADIOLOGICAL)
January 1 through December 31, 1996

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-354
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57

PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY
P.O. BOX 236
HANCOCKS BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 08038

APRIL 1997

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This 1996 Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) for the Hope Creek Generating Station was prepared in accordance with Subsection 5.4.1 of Appendix B to Facility Operating License No. NPF-57, Environmental Protection Plan (Non-radiological). The reporting requirements of the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) became effective April 11, 1986, with the issuance of the initial Hope Creek Operating License (NPF-57).

This is the eleventh AEOR submitted for Hope Creek Generating Station. It corresponds to the reporting period January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996. Hope Creek Generating Station produced 6,754,484 megawatt-hours of net electrical energy during this period.

As required by Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP, we have included summaries and analyses of all required environmental protection activities. This information is described in Section 2.0. Section 3.0 addresses the issue of EPP compliance. Changes to station design or operation and the review for potentially significant unreviewed environmental questions are addressed in Section 4.0. Administrative review procedures and unusual and/or important environmental events are discussed in Section 5.0.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

2.1 AQUATIC ISSUES

Subsection 4.2.1 of the EPP references the Clean Water Act as the mechanism for protecting aquatic biota through water quality monitoring. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) relies upon the State of New Jersey, acting under the authority of the Clean Water Act, to insure applicable requirements for aquatic monitoring are implemented. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is the state's regulatory agency.

The state of New Jersey requires as part of their New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit program that effluent monitoring be performed, with the results summarized and submitted monthly on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. The monitoring is intended to determine compliance with permit (NJPDES No. NJ0025411) effluent limitations. We have reviewed the DMR's corresponding to the 1996 AEOR reporting period and have determined that no significant deviations have occurred. Copies of monthly DMR's are routinely sent to USNRC's Document Control Desk and additional copies are available upon request.

In March 1990, PSE&G submitted an application to the NJDEP for renewal of the Station's NJPDES permit which was to expire on September 30, 1990. In support of this permit application, PSE&G submitted a supplement to the application on August 19, 1991, which contained additional data not provided in the original application and updated and clarified previously submitted information. On May 5, 1995, PSE&G submitted a further amendment to the 1990 application to update system descriptions, submit current analytical data and provide current information in support of the NJPDES permit renewal.

On November 27, 1996, the NJDEP issued the Draft NJPDES Permit renewal for Public Comment. The Public Comment period ended on December 27, 1996. The Draft Permit modified monitoring requirements based on historical analytical results, imposed the requirement for development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, requires rerouting the effluent from the Sewage Treatment Plant to discharge with the Cooling Tower Blowdown to utilize inherent dechlorination capabilities, and requires special studies for Effluent Chronic and Acute Toxicity and Cooling Tower Total Suspended Solids. On February 14, 1997, the NJDEP issued the Final NJPDES Permit with no substantive changes from the Draft Permit. The Final NJPDES Permit is effective on April 1, 1997.

While the NRC relies on the State of New Jersey for protection of the water quality, the National Marine Fisheries Service maintains regulatory authority with respect to certain migratory threatened and endangered aquatic species. On May 15, 1993 the NMFS issued a revised Section 7 Consultation, Biological Opinion. The revision removed all requirements for marine life monitoring at the Hope Creek Generating Station. This revision was incorporated into the Facility Operating License No. NPF-57 through Amendment No. 60. Monitoring at the Hope Creek intake structure did not occur during the summer months of 1996 as a result of this revision.

2.2 TERRESTRIAL ISSUES

PSE&G has been voluntarily monitoring the osprey population that nest on our transmission towers through a joint effort with the NJDEP since 1989.

3.0 EPP COMPLIANCE STATUS

3.1 EPP NONCOMPLIANCES

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires a list of EPP noncompliances and the corrective actions taken to remedy them. No previously unreviewed environmental impacts attributable to the operation of the Hope Creek Generating Station were observed during 1996. Likewise, there were no instances of noncompliance with the EPP.

3.2 REVIEW

Subsection 5.1 of the EPP for Hope Creek Generating Station requires that an independent review of compliance with the EPP be maintained and made available for inspection. The EPP was reviewed by PSE&G's Corporate Environmental Management Department in July 1996. This review indicated that Hope Creek Generating Station was operated in compliance with the EPP.

4.0 CHANGES IN STATION DESIGN OR OPERATION

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.1 of the EPP, station design/operational changes during the time period covered by this report were reviewed for potential environmental impact. None of the recommended changes posed a potential to significantly affect the environment, and therefore, none involved an unreviewed environmental question or a change in the EPP.

• 5.0 NONROUTINE REPORTS

Subsection 5.4.1 of the EPP requires that a list of nonroutine reports submitted to the NRC during 1996 be included with this report. No environmentally related nonroutine reports were submitted to the USNRC in 1996.

Hope Creek Generating Station experienced no unusual or important events that indicated or could have resulted in a "significant environmental impact" during the 1996 reporting period.