

May 18, 2000

Mr. Harold W. Keiser  
President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Business Unit  
Public Service Electric & Gas Company  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING  
STATION (Reports 05000272/2000-008 & 05000311/2000-008)**

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On May 1, 2000, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, in which numerous NRC organizations evaluated the performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period from May 30, 1999, to April 1, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period.

Overall, Salem Units 1 & 2 were operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. Plant performance for both Units 1 & 2 for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on one inspection finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) within the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Both units met all cornerstone objectives.

The White finding within the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone at each unit involved carbon dioxide gas concentrations for fire suppression which did not reach and maintain the required levels during pre-operational testing of the 4160 Vac switchgear rooms. In your response to the March 15, 2000, Notice of Violation on this White finding, you committed to complete a root cause evaluation of this issue by June 30, 2000, and to provide us with a schedule of corrective actions by July 15, 2000. Subsequent to reviewing your evaluation and schedule, we plan to schedule a supplemental inspection to review this issue.

During the assessment period there were some PIs and findings which were other than Green, but the issues have been resolved and no additional inspection is planned. Specifically, a White PI on the Protected Area Security Equipment Performance Index at both units in the second quarter of 1999 has been retroactively categorized as Green based on recent changes in PI thresholds. The Unit 1 Reactor Coolant System Activity PI (3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1999) was White, but under recently revised guidance the elevated data would be excluded due to transient effects (an iodine spike after a reactor scram) and result in a Green PI. Also, a preliminary White inspection finding was identified within the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone regarding corrective actions for untimely event classifications, but this finding was recategorized as Green following a regulatory conference in which PSEG provided information that demonstrated

appropriate corrective actions had been taken. Because these PIs and findings are presently Green and the issues have been resolved, no additional inspection beyond the baseline inspection program is planned.

On June 15 we plan to present this assessment to you and your staff in a meeting at the Salem site with public observation.

This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from the Salem end-of-cycle review. The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections for the period from April 2, 2000 to March 31, 2001. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised in early December following the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). More detailed information that provides the basis for this assessment is available at the following NRC website:

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Glenn Meyer at (610) 337-5211 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

James C. Linville for

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-272, 50-311  
Licensee Nos. DPR-70, DPR-75

Enclosure: Salem Inspection/Activity Plan

cc: w/enclosure

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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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DATE	5/18/00	5/18/00	5/18/00			

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**ENCLOSURE**  
**Salem Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**05/22/2000 - 03/31/2001**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		05/29/2000	06/02/2000	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/29/2000	06/02/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		05/29/2000	06/02/2000	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/29/2000	06/02/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711112B</b>	<b>- MAINTENANCE RULE</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		06/18/2000	06/22/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71130</b>	<b>- SECURITY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		06/19/2000	06/23/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		06/19/2000	06/23/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/11/2000	09/15/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/11/2000	09/15/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		09/11/2000	09/15/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/11/2000	09/15/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCCUPATIONAL RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/16/2000	10/20/2000	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/16/2000	10/20/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		10/16/2000	10/20/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111108</b>	<b>- INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/16/2000	10/20/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711117B</b>	<b>- PERMANENT MODIFICATIONS</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		10/23/2000	10/27/2000	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		10/23/2000	10/27/2000	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152</b>	<b>- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION &amp; RESOLUTION</b>	<b>4</b>			
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		02/26/2001	03/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/12/2001	03/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71121</b>	<b>- OCCUPATIONAL RAD SAFETY</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/19/2001	03/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/19/2001	03/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		03/19/2001	03/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/19/2001	03/23/2001	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.