

January 3, 2000

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PSEG Nuclear LLC
Post Office Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
SALEM NUCLEAR STATION**

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On December 13, 1999, the NRC staff reviewed the plant performance of Salem Nuclear Station during June 1- November 30, 1999, as reflected in the performance indicators and inspection results, in order to integrate performance information and to plan for inspection activities at your facility through July 31, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Our review of performance at Salem noted that all performance indicators (PIs) and inspection areas were green (licensee response band), with the exception of an inspection finding in the emergency preparedness area which was classified as white (increased regulatory response band) using the Significance Determination Process. The EP performance issue was described in NRC Inspection Report 05000272 & 05000311/99-09, issued on December 28, 1999, and applied to both Salem units. Pending final resolution of this white finding, supplemental inspection is planned in the EP area as part of the upcoming EP exercise review. In addition, up until October 1999, there was one PI which exceeded the white threshold at both Salem units (*i.e.*, *Protected Area Security Equipment Performance Index*), but this PI was based on performance concerns which had been previously addressed.

This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from our Salem mid-cycle performance review. Enclosure 1 lists the scheduled inspections that are planned through July 31, 2000. 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 inspectors arriving onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last few months of the inspection plan are tentative and will be addressed at the end-of-cycle performance review in April 2000, which we expect to issue to you in May 2000.

Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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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). 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,

Original Signed by:

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 05000272 & 05000311

License Nos. DPR - 70 & 75

Enclosures: 1. Salem Station Scheduled Inspections (January 1 - July 31, 2000)
2. Plant Issue Matrix

cc w/encls:

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E. Simpson, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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