



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

Division of Environmental Safety and Health
P.O. Box 424
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0424
Phone: (609) 633-7964
Fax: (609) 777-1330

LISA P. JACKSON
Commissioner

August 27, 2007

Jane Christy, Freeholder
Cumberland County
633 Dove Drive
Millville, NJ 08332

Dear Freeholder Christy:

I want to thank you for your participation and comments at the Department of Environmental Protection's Annual Public Hearing in Cumberland County held July 18, 2007. My staff made me aware of your questions and concerns and I would like to take this opportunity to address each of them individually. The Bureau of Nuclear Engineering (BNE) is responsible for coordinating and presiding over the annual public hearings as required under the New Jersey Radiation Accident Response Act. The hearings are specifically held to take public comment on the adequacy and effectiveness of the New Jersey Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP). As my staff and I reviewed the questions and concerns you raised at the hearing, we found that many of them pertained to issues outside of the BNE's mandate with regard to the RERP. Therefore, the responses provided in the following sections provide contacts and resources available to assist you in obtaining additional information regarding your concerns.

Issue 1: The Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Section (NEPS) pamphlet titled "Protecting New Jersey Residents in case of a Nuclear Emergency" is outdated. James E. McGreevey and Bradley M. Campbell are listed on the cover and final pages of the informational brochure.

Response: The NEPS has made an extensive review of the information contained in the pamphlet. Based on that review, they concluded that all the information provided in the pamphlet is now contained in more recent documents and brochures that are made available at the public hearings. We have decided to eliminate the pamphlet from our outreach materials.

Issue 2: You expressed concern regarding the effect of the intake structure's traveling screens on fish populations in the Delaware River. Further, it is your understanding that the fish population is being depleted and that the general

feeling among recreational and commercial fishers is that industry is being negatively impacted. You oppose re-issuing the NJPDES permit and would like to see the DEP look at alternative means to help protect the aquatic life in the Delaware River.

Response: A detailed analysis of the biological efficacy regarding the Modified Ristroph traveling screens is contained in the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) permit in 2001. If you are interested in receiving either or both of these documents please contact, Susan Rosenwinkel, Principal Environmental Engineer for the Bureau of Point Source Permitting at (609) 292-4860 or via e-mail at susan.rosenwinkel@dep.state.nj.us.

The Modified Ristroph Fish Screen is a widely used technology among industries that use once through cooling water systems. This technology is designed specifically to safely and gently remove fish from intake screens. Design features include special screening panels with deep buckets, smooth surface meshes, flow spoilers, low pressure spray systems, and special discharge fish troughs.

The DEP has received a renewal application from Salem and is currently going through a thorough review of the document. Given your interest in this action, you have been added to the public comment list for any future agency actions. Individuals on that list can expect to be notified of any public meetings or hearings on the NJPDES license renewal. Again if you would like more detailed information or want to address specific questions or concerns about this issue, please feel free to contact Susan Rosenwinkel.

Issue 3: You raised a concern regarding the frequency and findings of OSHA inspections at the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations.

Response: At Salem and Hope Creek, OSHA has no formal, pre-scheduled inspection program. OSHA is alerted to worker safety issues in three ways. First, PSEG reports results of Salem's and Hope Creek's own worker safety program audits and certain personnel injuries which occur on the job. Second, any employee can contact OSHA directly to report a work safety concern. Third, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with OSHA. This MOU requires that an NRC inspector encourage a utility to inform OSHA of worker safety issues or for the NRC inspector to notify OSHA directly. To support the MOU, the NRC maintains four full-time resident inspectors on-site at Artificial Island (a Senior Resident and a Resident inspector at both Salem and Hope Creek). This MOU is available online at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/info-notices/1988/in88100.html>

Although allegations of safety violations have been made to OSHA, these concerns have been resolved without an onsite OSHA inspection. PSEG has advised us that there were no OSHA inspections in the past eight years.

Issue 4: You expressed concern about the age of the power plants and the continued safe operation of aging plants.

Response: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for the reactor oversight process and performs regular inspections at the site to ensure safe operation of all plant systems. The NRC maintains four full-time resident inspectors on-site at Artificial Island (a Senior Resident and a Resident inspector at both Salem and Hope Creek). In addition to the resident inspectors, additional NRC inspectors are periodically on-site to perform inspections related to specific nuclear safety-related subjects. Engineers from the NJ BNE also are regularly on-site to review operations of the plants and these engineers accompany the NRC inspectors on various inspections.

Specific concerns related to reactor safety and aging systems should be directed to NRC Region 1. Marjorie McLaughlin (610) 337-5240 and Nancy McNamara (610) 337-5337 are the NRC Region I State Liaison Officers and will be able to direct you to the appropriate staff within the NRC to respond to your concerns.

Issue 5: You expressed concerns over the ability of the plant to withstand natural and man made disasters. You specifically mentioned the recent earthquake in Japan and the potential for flooding during severe weather.

Response: Salem Units 1 and 2 and Hope Creek have very specific design requirements with regard to natural and man made disasters. In addition, plant operators are required to take specific precautionary actions in the event of natural and man made disasters to ensure plant safety.

PSEG employs staff with specific knowledge within many disciplines that are applied to evaluating effects of natural or man made disaster on the power plants. The list of experts includes, but is not limited to, structural and design engineers, meteorologists, and hydrologists. Mr. Skip Sindoni is the Director of PSEG's Power Communications and may be reached at (856) 339-1002. He is a single point of contact for you and will assist in getting you in contact with the appropriate experts at the site to address any specific questions you have regarding this issue.

Issue 6: You urged the DEP to explore alternative energy means rather than a new reactor at Artificial Island. Specifically, you mentioned windmills.

Response: On December 23, 2004, Acting Governor Codey issued Executive Order #12 establishing a Blue Ribbon Panel charged with identifying and weighing the costs and benefits of developing offshore wind turbine facilities, and considering both

economic and environmental costs and benefits. The Blue Ribbon Panel also considered the need for offshore wind turbines and a comparison to other electric power sources, including fossil, nuclear and renewable fuels as part of the State's long-term electricity needs.

The final report of the Blue Ribbon Panel and more information regarding wind energy in New Jersey may be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.njwindpanel.org>

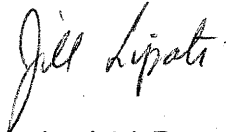
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/srp-wind.htm>

The DEP and many other organizations throughout the state, both in the public and private sectors, continue to explore energy alternatives as part of the overall energy plan for the state. The volume of information and reference material is far too expansive to provide in this correspondence. In general, the DEP's Division of Science and Research provides a list of resources that may be useful to you in gathering the information you are seeking. The following link should provide an excellent starting point for you.

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/bscit/sustainable-comm/other-programs.htm>

Thank you again for your interest and participation in our public hearing process. If I can be of any further assistance please contact me at (609) 633-7964.

Sincerely yours,



Jill Lipoti, Ph.D.
Director

C: Paul Baldauf, Assistant Director
Pat Mulligan, Acting Manager
Nick DePierro, Supervising Nuclear Engineer
David Burgin, EP Manager, PSEG
SFC Thomas Scardino, NJOEM