HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION (HCGS) FACT SHEET
EXTENDED POWER UPRATE

PSEG applied to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for an amendment to the HCGS Facility Operating License to increase the maximum steady-state reactor power level by 15%, resulting in an estimated increase in main generator output of approximately 120 megawatts electrical (MWe). Although major modifications were required for selected non-safety related equipment, no major modifications were required for any nuclear safety-related equipment. This type power increase is referred to as an extended power uprate (EPU).

Power uprate is the process of increasing the maximum power level at which a commercial nuclear power plant may operate. The NRC regulates the maximum power level at which a commercial nuclear power plant can operate. The NRC also controls any change to a license or technical specification, and must approve any power uprate.

The NRC staff began an extensive review process of the EPU application in September 2006. As part of this review process, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) reviewed the application, participated in public meetings, observed NRC inspections and submitted comments to the NRC on environmental as well as technical subjects. The NRC also invited the public to provide comments as well as to attend various public meetings concerning the Hope Creek EPU application.

The NRC staff's review process culminated in the staff submitting the review results to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS) in April 2008. Following the staff's presentation, the ACRS recommended to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the Hope Creek EPU application be approved.

On May 14, 2008 the NRC issued the approved Hope Creek EPU license amendment. The newly licensed 100% reactor power for Hope Creek is 3840 megawatts thermal (MWt). This level is 115% of the previous licensed power level of 3339 MWt.

On May 22 Hope Creek began a planned, coordinated increase in reactor power. This increase was in accordance with an approved plan that required measuring and evaluating key component parameters. The NRC provided oversight of the plan through inspection and review of the plant data.

Baseline information was taken at the 90% and 100% power plateaus (% based on previous licensed power). Information from such testing was used to predict margins for subsequent tests performed during the power ascension testing. Power ascension then proceeded in 2.5% power increments.

In accordance with the power ascension plan, Hope Creek has successfully reached the 3723 MWt (97.0%) plateau. All testing results were within the acceptable limits. Hope Creek will operate at 97% throughout the remainder of the summer. The timing of the increase to 100% power (3480 MWt) will be determined by PSEG at a later date.

For additional EPU information refer to the NRC website:
http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/power-uprates.html

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION (HCGS) FACT SHEET
COOLING TOWER

As part of the EPU license amendment process, PSEG submitted an air permit modification request to the NJDEP Air Quality Permitting Office. The need for this modification was based on expected increases in particulate matter emissions from the Hope Creek cooling tower due to the EPU.

The NJDEP determined that the proposed increase in particulate matter emissions would have no environmental impacts to air quality. However, since the request resulted in emissions above those in the present NJDEP State Implementation Plan (SIP), a SIP variance was required to be submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SIP is the state's plan for implementing the Federal Clean Air Act in New Jersey, and as such, must be approved by the EPA.

The following timeline describes the New Jersey submittal of the SIP variance to the EPA:

April 3, 2007 - The NJDEP completed the proposed SIP variance. A public comment period followed from May 1thru 3, during which no applicable comments were received.

August 7, 2007 – The NJDEP adopted the SIP variance.

November 2, 2007 - The NJDEP submitted the SIP variance to the EPA.

December 19, 2007 - The EPA determined that the SIP variance was administratively and technically complete.

May 29, 2008 – The EPA proposed approving the SIP variance and provided a public comment period that ended on June 30, 2008. The EPA findings were:

- The requirements for approving the SIP variance pursuant to the Clean Act had been satisfied.
- All particulate matter released from the Hope Creek cooling tower will be well below significant impact levels set forth in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- The Hope Creek cooling tower provides the best available control technology for the reduction of particulate matter.
- PSEG will continue to provide adequate monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting as specified in the site's air permit.

Additional information concerning the SIP variance can be found on the National Archives and Records Administration's Federal Register Website at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html, (May 29th, 2008, Volume 73, Number 104, DOCID:fr29my08-36).

Information regarding air permit modifications can be found on the NJDEP Air Quality Permitting Program website at http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/.