

A copy of any petitions should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Jeffrie J. Keenan, Esquire, Nuclear Business Unit—N21, P.O. Box 236, Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038, attorney for the licensee.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated July 30, 1998, as supplemented on February 22, 1999, and (2) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated July 9, 1999.

These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Salem Free Public Library, 112 West Broadway, Salem, NJ 08079.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of July 1999.

**S. Singh Bajwa,**

*Acting Director, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18162 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-354]

### Public Service Electric and Gas Company; Hope Creek Generating Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-57, issued to Public Service Electric and Gas Company (the licensee), for operation of the Hope Creek Generating Station (HCGS), located in Salem County, New Jersey.

#### Environmental Assessment

##### Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would correct typographical and editorial errors in the HCGS Technical Specifications (TSs) in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated May 24, 1999, as supplemented June 21, 1999.

##### The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would provide clarity and administrative correctness to the TSs.

##### Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the changes to the TSs are administrative in nature. The proposed action does not affect the assessment of environmental impacts described in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Hope Creek Generating Station" (NUREG-1074).

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

##### Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the HCGS.

##### Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 8, 1999, the staff consulted with the New Jersey State official, Mr. Richard Pinney of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

##### Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the

Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated May 24, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated June 21, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Pennsville Public Library, 190 S. Broadway, Pennsville, New Jersey 08070.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Richard B. Ennis,**

*Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 99-18163 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Design and Assessment Issues in Safety-Critical Digital Systems

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of seminar.

**SUMMARY:** The NRC has committed through its Strategic Plan to incorporate risk insights, conduct anticipatory research on issues of potential regulatory and safety significance, engage in cooperative research agreements, and provide timely information to our stakeholders. As part of this commitment, a seminar has been established to present on-going anticipatory research in the safety assessment of digital systems. This research is conducted through a cooperative agreement between academia and the government. The goal of this seminar is to inform our stakeholders of current research activities and to solicit their perspectives and interest in safety assessment of digital systems.

**DATE:** August 5, 1999—The seminar will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Thornton Hall, Room 316, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

#### CONTACT:

Registration—Francine Randolph,  
Phone: (301) 415-6798, E-mail:  
[fxr1@nrc.gov](mailto:fxr1@nrc.gov)

General—John Calvert, Phone: (301)  
415-6323, E-mail: [jac4@nrc.gov](mailto:jac4@nrc.gov)

Terry Jackson, Phone: (301) 415-6486,  
E-mail: [twj@nrc.gov](mailto:twj@nrc.gov)

**ATTENDANCE:** This seminar is free and open to the general public. All individuals planning to attend should pre-register with Ms. Francine Randolph by telephone or e-mail and provide their name, affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address.

**PROGRAM:** This seminar presents a survey of safety assessment practices found in nuclear, aviation, medical, railway, and other applications where the correct operation of a digital system is crucial to system safety. It also presents new research results related to digital design and safety assessment. The seminar is partitioned into two half-day sessions. The morning session examines the design of safety-critical digital systems, and the afternoon session addresses the assessment of safety-critical systems. Both sessions demonstrate techniques by illustrating their application to real industrial systems.

### I. Issues in the Design of Safety-Critical Systems

- Important terminology and concepts.
- Industry approaches and applications of safety-critical systems.
- Design methodologies and processes for safety-critical systems.
- Impact of commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware and software on safety-critical system design.
- Design principles for safety-critical systems.
- A safety-critical digital design methodology, architecture, application, and implementation.

### II. Issues in the Assessment of Safety-Critical Systems

- Safety assessment methodologies and processes for digital systems.
- Probabilistic modeling techniques for digital systems.
- Critical digital system parameters that impact safety.
- Fault coverage modeling and estimation.
- Impact of fault coverage on digital system safety.
- Example assessment of an industrial safety-critical digital system.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated in Rockville, Maryland this 12th day of July 1999.

**John W. Craig,**

*Director, Division of Engineering Technology,  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research*

[FR Doc. 99-18161 Filed 7-15-99; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### Interim OPM Criteria for IRS Broadbanding System

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice publicizes interim criteria for broadbanding systems for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to establish one or more broadbanding systems covering all or any portion of the IRS workforce under the General Schedule (GS). Title 5, United States Code, directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to prescribe criteria for IRS broadbanding systems and specifies certain principles that such criteria must follow, at a minimum.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before August 16, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments to Gregory Zygiel, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Room 7305, Washington, DC 20415-8320, or submit comments electronically to [totalcomp@opm.gov](mailto:totalcomp@opm.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gregory Zygiel, 202-606-8047.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-206) authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to establish one or more broadbanding systems covering all or any portion of the IRS workforce under the General Schedule (GS). 5 U.S.C. 9509(b) directs OPM to prescribe criteria for IRS broadbanding systems and specifies certain principles that such criteria must follow, at a minimum. The criteria were developed after conferring with the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, and the National Treasury Employees Union. They are designed to incorporate the lessons learned from previous experience with broadbanding under personnel demonstration projects.

5 U.S.C. 9509(b)(3) requires that employees covered by IRS broadbanding systems will remain subject to the laws and regulations covering General Schedule employees (e.g., locality payments, the aggregate limitation on pay, premium pay, and recruitment and relocation bonuses and retention allowances), except as otherwise provided in the criteria.

The publication of these criteria permits IRS to implement broadbanding

systems under this authority. Before implementing any broadbanding system under this authority, IRS must develop written plans, policies, and implementing procedures that address each relevant criterion, including descriptions of broadbanding structure(s), classification criteria, positions covered, the method of pay progression within a band, pay-setting policies, policies for paying supervisors or management officials, and policies for converting positions into broadbanding systems. Any public comments may assist OPM in working with IRS as it develops such plans, policies, and procedures.

Dated: July 9, 1999.

Office of Personnel Management.

**Janice R. Lachance,**  
*Director.*

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### I. Authority

Section 9509 of title 5, United States Code, as added by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-206), provides the Secretary of the Treasury with the authority to establish one or more broadbanding systems covering all or any portion of the IRS workforce under the General Schedule (GS). Section 9509(b) directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to prescribe criteria for IRS broadbanding systems and specifies certain principles that such criteria must follow, at a minimum.

### II. Applicability

Section 9509(a) defines a "broadbanded system" as a system for grouping positions for pay, job evaluation, and other purposes that is different from the General Schedule pay and classification system established under chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code. Employees covered by IRS broadbanding systems are not covered by subchapter III of chapter 53 or by those provisions of chapter 51 that define General Schedule grades. However, selected provisions from those parts of law are used in applying parallel features to employees in IRS