



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

CENTRAL FILES

May 28, 1980

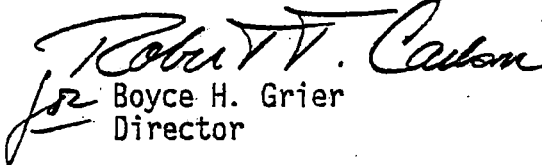
Docket No. 50-272
50-311

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
ATTN: Mr. F. W. Schneider
Vice President - Production
80 Park Place
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Information Notice No. 80-22, "Breakdowns in Contamination Control Programs," is forwarded to you for information. No written response is required. If you desire additional information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,


for Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosures:

1. IE Information Notice No. 80-22
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

CONTACT: P. J. Knapp
(215-337-5243)

cc w/encls:

F. P. Librizzi, General Manager - Electric Production
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8007020133

ENCLOSURE 1

SSINS: 6870
Accessions No:
8005050059

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20555

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Date: May 28, 1980
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BREAKDOWNS IN CONTAMINATION CONTROL PROGRAMS

Description of Circumstances

Recent inspections at power reactors have revealed breakdowns in contamination control programs resulting in releases of radioactive materials to the unrestricted area and off-site environment by several different pathways.

The first pathway was via disposal of supposedly clean trash in the nearby county sanitary landfill. High background radiation levels due to an onsite buildup of radioactive waste precluded adequate radiation surveys of clean trash prior to removal from the restricted area. In addition, the surveys were being conducted by improperly trained personnel. The result was the undetected disposal of radioactive material in the local sanitary landfill. An NRC inspector observed the practice and confirmed his suspicions when he detected levels of radiation 10 to 20 times normal background levels at the landfill. Subsequent surveys by the licensee, the State, and the NRC revealed several other areas in the landfill with higher than normal dose rates. Excavation by the licensee revealed items with contamination levels up to 100 mrem/hr contact reading. These items had been delivered with the clean trash from the plant and buried at the landfill.

A second pathway was identified to be through the sale by the licensee of scrap materials to salvage dealers in the surrounding area. Several items with contamination levels in excess of the licensee's unrestricted area release limits were discovered to have been sold to these vendors. Maximum dose rates on these items did not exceed 1.0 mrem/hr. This condition evidently also resulted from the elevated background radiation levels within the plant and the practice of permitting unqualified personnel to conduct radiation surveys.

A third pathway was found during a recent NRC inspection. An NRC inspector's radiation survey revealed soil contamination on site extending beyond the protected area fence. Radiation levels as high as 1.5 mrem/hr were measured on contact with the soil. The contamination is believed to be atmospheric fallout of particulate radioactivity which was exhausted from the plant stack during containment purge following explosive plugging of steam generator tubes. The steam generator manways were not covered and the purge system was not equipped with HEPA filters. The licensee's survey program did not include routine, periodic site and perimeter surveys.

Enclosure 1

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This IE Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a significant matter that is still under review by the NRC staff. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If NRC evaluations so indicate, further licensee actions may be required.

No written response to this IE Information Notice is required. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

ENCLOSURE 2

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RECENTLY ISSUED IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued to
80-14	Safety Suggestions from Employees	4/2/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an (Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP), Fuel Fabrication and Processing Facilities and Materials Priority 1 Licensees
80-15	Axial (Longitudinal) Oriented Cracking in Piping	4/21/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-16	Shaft Seal Packing Causes Binding in Main Steam Swing Check and Isolation Valves	5/5/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-17	Potential Hazards Associated With Interchangeable Parts On Radiographic Equipment	5/5/80	All Radiographic Licensees
80-18	Possible Weapons Smuggling Pouch	5/5/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL, Fuel Fabrication and Processing Facilities and Materials Priority I Licensees
80-19	NIOSH Recall of Recirculation-Mode (Closed-Circuit) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (Rebreathers)	5/6/80	All Power Reactors with an OL, Research Reactors, Fuel Facilities and Priority I Material Licensees
80-20	Loss of Decay Heat Removal Capability at Davis-Besse Unit 1 While in Refueling Mode	5/8/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP
80-21	Anchorage and Support of Safety-Related Electrical Equipment	5/16/80	All Power Reactor Facilities with an OL or CP