

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: August 4, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80- 118

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

**Facility:** Salem Nuclear Generating Station - Unit 2  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company (New Jersey)  
(Docket Number 50-311)  
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey

**Subject:** INITIAL CRITICALITY OF SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - UNIT 2

Initial criticality of Salem Unit 2 was achieved on August 2, 1980 at 10:49 AM.

Critical rod position was 165 steps on Bank D. Critical boron concentration was 1318 ppm. These values were within acceptable limits of the estimated critical parameters which were 165 steps and 1282 ppm, respectively.

Approach to criticality was witnessed by NRC Resident and regional inspectors.

Media interest is expected due to acute local interest in plant operation. The states of New Jersey and Delaware have been notified. A press release is planned by the licensee. NRC Region I does not plan to issue a press release.

NRC, Region I (Philadelphia), received notification of this occurrence from the Resident Inspector at 11:10 AM on August 2, 1980. The Headquarters Duty Officer was informed at 11:00 AM via ENS from the Senior Resident Inspector.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only. The Resident Inspector will monitor the zero power test program.

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4



PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

60