

MAR 31 1987

Docket Nos. 50-311
License No. DPR-75
EA 87-37

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
ATTN: Mr. Corbin A. McNeill, Jr.
Vice President - Nuclear
P. O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Gentlemen:

Subject: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC Inspection Report No. 50-311/87-03)

This refers to the special NRC resident inspection conducted on January 12-23, 1987 at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey to review the circumstances associated with a violation of a technical specification limiting condition for operation which was identified by your staff on January 13, 1987 and promptly reported to the NRC. The violation was identified during a review of NRC IE Information Notice 87-01 which was received on January 13, 1987. The inspection report was sent to you on February 11, 1987. On February 27, 1987, an enforcement conference was conducted with you and members of your staff to discuss the violation, its causes and your corrective actions.

The violation, which is described in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), involved the inoperability of both Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Residual Heat Removal (RHR) subsystems for approximately 20 hours, in violation of the Technical Specification Limiting Condition for Operation. Each subsystem was inoperable in that the RHR discharge flow path was isolated from two of the four reactor coolant system cold legs. The violation occurred when, in removing one RHR pump from service to support maintenance activities, its injection valve and the RHR loop cross-tie valve were closed, thereby, restricting the remaining operable RHR pump from being able to inject into all four cold legs, as required.

The NRC is concerned that your NSSS vendor, Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Westinghouse), was aware that similar problems had occurred at the Callaway, Trojan and Byron nuclear plants in 1985 and early 1986, yet they apparently did not notify you of this issue. This demonstrates the need for, and importance of, improved interface with your vendors in general, and Westinghouse in particular, to assure that you are promptly notified whenever problems are identified that can potentially affect the ability of plant safety systems and their components to perform their intended safety functions.

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In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1986) (Enforcement Policy) the violation described in the enclosed Notice has been classified at a Severity Level III. A civil penalty is considered for a Severity Level III violation. However, after consultation with the Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, I have decided that a civil penalty will not be proposed in the case because (1) the violation was promptly identified by your staff upon receipt of the NRC Information Notice, and promptly reported to the NRC, and (2) your corrective actions were unusually prompt and extensive. Nonetheless, we emphasize that any similar violations in the future may result in additional enforcement action.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. You should also document the specific actions taken to ensure that your vendors in general, and Westinghouse in particular, provide you prompt notification of issues potentially affecting plant operations. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley,

Thomas E. Murley
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

Public Service Electric and
Gas Company

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cc w/encl:

J. M. Zupko, Jr., General Manager - Salem Operations
B. A. Preston, Manager, Licensing and Regulation
C. P. Johnson, Manager - Quality Assurance Nuclear Operations
General Manager - Nuclear Safety Review
M. J. Wetterhahn, Esquire
R. Fryling, Jr., Esquire
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New Jersey
Frank Bakos
General Manager, ESSD
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P. O. Box 355, UNC West 501
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Public Service Electric and
Gas Company

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bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
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DRP Section Chief
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J. Taylor, IE
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T. Murley, RI
H. Denton, NRR
D. Holody, RI
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Gutierrez

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Allan

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Murley

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