

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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Vice President - Nuclear Operations

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NLR-N89071

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

SPARE CRDM WELD INSPECTION
SALEM GENERATING STATION
UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the status of one of the planned followup items discussed in PSE&G letter NLR-N88156, dated October 4, 1988 on spare Control Rod Drive Mechanism (CRDM) canopy seal welds. In that letter, PSE&G stated that it was planned to remove a spare CRDM from Unit 1 during the April 1989 outage. This CRDM was to be sent for metallographic examination to determine the root cause of the CRDM leakage. Since the time of that letter, Westinghouse has advised PSE&G that they have completed their examinations and have determined the root cause of the leakage. Westinghouse was able to obtain sufficient failed specimens from other utilities which experienced failures subsequent to Salem Unit 1 as well as obtaining two specimens from Salem Unit 2. The failure mode for all samples was consistent. Therefore no further samples are necessary and PSE&G no longer intends to remove the spare CRDM from Unit 1 this outage. Since the Westinghouse study was performed as an owners group activity, PSE&G is currently working with the owners group to determine the appropriate method of forwarding this information to the NRC staff. The results of this study will be forwarded as soon as this decision is made.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



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