

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 23, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-272 and 50-311

> Mr. Steven E. Miltenberger Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Public Service Electric and Gas Company Post Office Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Dear Mr. Miltenberger:

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF AN ACCIDENT, MPA A-17,

(REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97), SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1

AND 2 (TAC NOS. M51128 AND M51129)

Section 6.2 of Generic Letter 82-33 requested licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.97 (Revision 2), including methods for complying with the Commission's regulations and supporting technical justification for any proposed alternatives or deviations. A large number of exception requests were received from PWR licensees asking that the environmental qualification requirement for accumulator level and pressure monitoring instrumentation be relaxed from Category 2 to Category 3, which would allow commercial grade instruments to be used. Prior to 1987 these requests were denied by the staff. Since then, these exception requests have been considered as open items until a generic resolution could be found.

The staff has now reviewed the bases for these exceptions and has concluded that no operator action is based on this post-accident instrumentation and that it does not perform a safety function. In addition, successful performance of core cooling systems can be inferred from other environmentally qualified instrumentation. Since this instrumentation does not perform any post-accident safety function, its qualification requirements can be reduced to Category 3. A copy of the Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

You have already installed Category 2 instrumentation to monitor accumulator level and pressure as stated in your September 21, 1983 letter. You are no longer bound by this commitment, and may, at your discretion, replace this instrumentation with Category 3 instrumentation. Please notify me of the actions you plan to take and the schedule for implementation.

MAJ.

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If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 504-1419.

Sincerely,

/S/

James C. Stone, Senior Project Manager Project Directorate I-2 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. Steven E. Miltenberger

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Sincerely,

James C. Stone, Senior Project Manager Project Directorate I-2

Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Mr. Steven E. Miltenberger Public Service Electric & Gas Company

cc:

Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esquire Winston & Strawn 1400 L Street NW Washington, DC 20005-3502

Richard Fryling, Jr., Esquire Law Department - Tower 5E 80 Park Place Newark, NJ 07101

Mr. Calvin A. Vondra General Manager - Salem Operations Salem Generating Station P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. S. LaBruna Vice President - Nuclear Operations Nuclear Department P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Mr. Thomas P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector Salem Generating Station U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Drawer I Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Asst. Director Radiation Protection Programs NJ Department of Environmental Protection CN 415 Trenton, NJ 08625-0415

Maryland People's Counsel American Building, 9th Floor 231 East Baltimore Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Maryland Mr. J. T. Robb, Director Joint Owners Affairs Philadelphia Electric Company 955 Chesterbrook Blvd., 51A-13 Wayne, PA 19087 Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

Richard Hartung Electric Service Evaluation Board of Regulatory Commissioners 2 Gateway Center, Tenth Floor Newark, NJ 07102

Regional Administrator, Region I U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406

Lower Alloways Creek Township c/o Mary O. Henderson, Clerk Municipal Building, P.O. Box 157 Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. Frank X. Thomson, Jr., Manager Licensing and Regulation Nuclear Department P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Mr. David Wersan Assistant Consumer Advocate Office of Consumer Advocate 1425 Strawberry Square Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. J. A. Isabella MGR. - Generation Department Atlantic Electric Company P.O. Box 1500 1199 Black Horse Pike Pleasantville, NJ 08232

Carl D. Schaefer
External Operations - Nuclear
Delmarva Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 231
Wilmington, DE 19899

Public Service Commission of Engineering Division ATTN: Chief Engineer 231 E. Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21202-3486