



PSE&G

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Nuclear Business Unit

AUG 15 1996

LR-N96242

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

**AMENDMENT DISCREPANCY RESOLUTION
EXPLOSIVE GAS MIXTURE
SALEM GENERATING STATION NOS. 1 AND 2
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES DPR-70 AND DPR-75
DOCKET NOS. 50-272 AND 50-311**

Gentlemen:

Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) recently submitted a Licensee Event Report (LER) 311/96-002-00, dated July 29, 1996 that identified a problem with the present wording contained in Salem Units 1 and 2 Technical Specification (TS) 3.11.2.5 pertaining to explosive gas mixture. Through the development of the LER, PSE&G found that this Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) had undergone several changes during the amendment process which ultimately resulted in the present LCO wording being incorrect as issued. This letter is to provide insight into the inconsistencies found and to request that the Staff review their records to determine if a correction to the issued amendment is appropriate.

Amendments 64 and 36, Unit 1 and Unit 2 respectively, were issued on May 30, 1985 to correct various editorial and typographical errors that were contained in previously issued Amendment Nos. 59 and 28. On June 21, 1985, a followup correction letter was issued by the Staff to PSE&G which provided changes that were inadvertently omitted from the Amendment 64/36 package. Included in this letter was page 3/4 11-15 containing LCO 3.11.2.5 on explosive gas mixture. The revised page indicated only a change to Surveillance 4.11.2.5; however, there were other changes to the LCO and Action Statements which altered the content of this specification.

The specific changes that caused the problem which resulted in LER 311/96-002-00 was the deletion in the LCO of the wording "...whenever the hydrogen concentration exceeds 4% by volume." Additionally, the wording "... and the hydrogen concentration greater than 2% by volume," was deleted from Action b. With the above two phrases deleted in conjunction with the LCO being applicable at all times, a condition results where the system

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cannot be rendered inoperable and opened to atmosphere for maintenance purposes, while remaining in compliance with the TSS.

A review of PSE&G's records indicate that the revision of specification 3.11.2.5, as amended, was not requested for the Salem Units and results in inconsistencies with the Westinghouse Standard Technical Specifications, (NUREG-0452), upon which Salem's previous wording was based.

The deletion of the phrases appears to be an administrative error in the Amendment issuance which went undetected by the NRC and PSE&G until recently questioned by Salem's operators. In order to obtain a corrected TS, PSE&G is requesting that the NRC review the relevant documentation to determine if there was suitable reason for the changed wording of TS 3.11.2.5 and, if appropriate, to issue a correction to amendment 64/36 restoring the deleted phrases. If this apparent oversight cannot be corrected in this manner, other alternative means, such as a separate request for change to TSS, can be discussed with the Staff to resolve the identified problem.

Should you have any questions, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

D. R. Powell

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Manager -
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