PSE&G

Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038-0236

Nuclear Business Unit

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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SALEM GENERATING STATION
LICENSE NO. DPR-75
DOCKET NO. 50-311
UNIT NO. 2
SPECIAL REPORT 97-01

This Special Report addresses the inoperability of Unit 2 Radiation Monitoring System channel 2R15 for greater than seven (7) days. This report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 6.9.2 and is in accordance with Technical Specification Table 3.3-6, ACTION 26, item 2.

Sincerely,

David F. Garchow
General Manager
Salem Operations

Attachment

MKG

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SPECIAL REPORT 311/97-01

PLANT IDENTIFICATION:

Salem Generating Station - Unit 2
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

Unit 2 Radiation Monitoring System Channel 2R15 Inoperable Greater Than (7) Days.

Date of Occurrence: June 15, 1997

Report Date: June 27, 1997

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

Salem Unit 2 in Mode 4 - Hot Shutdown

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

Radiation monitor 2R15 is the process monitor for noble gas effluent from the Unit 2 Condenser Exhaust System. It provides an alarm function to identify a high radiation condition associated with steam generator primary to secondary tube leakage. On June 15, 1997, at 0620 hours, Salem Unit 2 entered Mode 4, Hot Shutdown. At that time, condenser vacuum was not established and therefore no process flow existed in the condenser. The Main Steam Isolation Valves were closed, isolating the Steam Generators from the condenser. Without process flow, there is no gas flow past the detector and the monitor was declared inoperable. As of June 22, 1997, condenser vacuum had not been established. The 2R15 monitor is expected to perform its function once condenser vacuum is established and process flow is established. There are no safety consequences associated with this occurrence.

Technical Specification 3.3.3.1.b, Table 3.3-6 item 2.b.4 requires the 2R15 to be operable in Modes 1 through 4. With the 2R15 inoperable, Action 26 is to be taken. This action requires a preplanned alternate method of monitoring be initiated and the channel be restored to operable status within 7 days or a special report submitted. Since the 2R15 is inoperable for greater than 7 days due to absence of condenser vacuum process flow, this special report is being submitted.

SPECIAL REPORT 311/97-01

CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE

The cause of this occurrence is the configuration of the plant. Salem Unit 2 is restarting after an extended outage. Unit 2 entered Mode 4 prior to establishing a vacuum in the condenser. As a result there is no process flow for the 2R15 channel to monitor. The 2R15 channel will be restored once condenser vacuum is established.

PRIOR SIMILAR OCCURRENCES

Special Reports 311/88-1 and 311/95-02 were previously submitted in accordance with the subject Technical Specification. However these Special Reports documented conditions where the 2R15 monitor was declared inoperable due to a degraded channel condition. No Special Reports have been previously submitted for the 2R15 channel being declared inoperable due to absence of process flow.

PLANS AND SCHEDULE FOR CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

When condenser vacuum is established, required operational surveillances will be completed on the 2R15 and the channel will be restored to operable status. By October 31, 1997 PSE&G will determine whether a license change request is warranted to clarify the operability status of the 2R15 channel when no process flow is present.