

April 1, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-98-009

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Public Service Electric & Gas Co.
Salem 1
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey
Dockets: 50-272

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: SALEM UNIT 1 RESTART

Salem Unit 1 was shut down in May 1995 because of a condition that was outside the plant's design basis. Salem Unit 2 was shut down in June of 1995. NRC Region I issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) in June 1995 which required licensee management to correct longstanding equipment reliability and operability issues, including corrective maintenance and operator workarounds. Since that time, the licensee implemented a comprehensive restart plan to improve plant equipment, processes, and procedures. Independent NRC Restart Assessment Team Inspections were completed in August 1997 and February 1998 which confirmed the licensee progress on completion of their restart plan for Unit 2 and Unit 1, respectively. Based on the above, the June 1995 CAL which was modified to allow Salem Unit 2 restart on August 6, 1997, has now been modified to permit Unit 1 restart. The approach to criticality is expected to begin on April 5, 1998. NRC Region I inspectors will observe on-site activities on all operating shifts during the approach to criticality and for several days afterwards. Additional inspections are planned to monitor the power ascension program. The States of New Jersey and Delaware have been notified.

Contact: James Linville
(610) 337-5129

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PDR I&E
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