



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415  
December 8, 1998

EA No. 98-534

Mr. Harold W. Keiser  
President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Business Unit  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

**SUBJECT: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATION REPORT NO. 1-98-013**

Dear Mr. Keiser:

This letter refers to the NRC investigation conducted by the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) after you had identified, investigated, and reported to the NRC, that a Fire Protection Operator - Nuclear falsified six daily fire inspection logs during February and March 1998. Your investigation was initiated following the identification that this individual did not enter the Salem Unit 2 waste evaporator area on or about March 3, 1998. A copy of the synopsis of the OI investigation is enclosed.

Based on the investigations conducted by your staff and OI, the NRC concluded that the Fire Protection Operator - Nuclear deliberately caused you to be in violation of your fire protection program procedures and a commitment to the NRC to maintain firewatches. Although this violation was willful, I have been authorized, in consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, to exercise discretion in accordance with Section VII.B.1 of the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Action" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600, to not cite this Severity Level IV violation. Enforcement discretion is appropriate in this case because (1) you identified the violation and promptly reported it to the NRC; (2) the violation appeared to be the isolated action of an employee, who was not at a high level in your organization, without management involvement and not caused by a lack of management oversight; and (3) you took prompt and comprehensive corrective actions, including appropriate disciplinary action against the employee.

You are not required to respond to this letter. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Hehl".

Charles W. Hehl, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: OI Synopsis

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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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OE concurrence  
 W. Borchardt via  
 Email from  
 M. Sabonis  
 12/11/98

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI), Region I Field Office, on March 12, 1998, to determine if a Fire Protection Operator-Nuclear (FPO-N), Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G), Salem Generating Station (SGS), Unit 2, Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038, falsified six daily fire inspection logs during February and March 1998.

Based upon the evidence developed during this investigation, and a review of evidence contained in the PSE&G investigation report, it was determined that the FPO-N deliberately falsified six daily fire watch inspection logs during February and March 1998.