

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-008

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:
Public Service Electric and Gas Co.
Salem Unit 2
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey

Licensee Emergency Classification:
☒ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☐ Not Applicable

Docket No.: 50-311
License No.: DPR-75
Event No.: 35340
Event Location Code:

SUBJECT: LOSS OF OVERHEAD ANNUNCIATORS AT SALEM UNIT 2 - MEDIA INTEREST

At 11:00 a.m. on February 3, 1999, the control room staff at Salem Unit 2 determined that the computer system supporting the overhead annunciators in the control room had malfunctioned such that the annunciators were not functioning. The reactor was operating at full power and continued to operate at full power. Subsequently, Public Service Electric and Gas (PSEG) declared an Unusual Event at 11:15 a.m. based on the degraded operational condition.

In response PSEG provided additional operators in the Unit 2 control room to continuously monitor alternative indications, including control panel gauges, control panel alarms, and other computer-driven alarm systems, which were unaffected by the loss of overhead annunciators. Plant equipment operators commenced continuous tours of operating equipment. Plant management reviewed and adjusted plant activities to ensure that the reactor would not be affected by other maintenance or testing activities.

The mishap occurred during preventive maintenance on the annunciator computer system, which involves two computer processors, a primary and a backup. Following replacement of a battery on one processor and during the reloading of default settings on that processor, the functioning processor was inadvertently disrupted, such that neither processor was able to support the annunciators. Initial corrective actions involved resetting and reloading the software onto one processor. This took approximately two hours from the initial problem, and after 1:00 p.m. the overhead annunciators were returned to functional capability.

After overhead annunciators were restored, PSEG continued to maintain the compensatory measures in the control room while efforts were under way to restore the backup processor. The Unusual Event was terminated at 3:40 p.m. after full restoration of the annunciator computer support system.

The resident inspectors responded to the control room to observe PSEG's actions and remain onsite.

PSEG informed the States of New Jersey and Delaware, and planned to issue a press release. Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 4 p.m. February 3, 1999.
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