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Public Service Electric and Gas Company 80 Park Place Newark, N.J. 07101 Phone 201/622-7000

April 27, 1978

Mr. Boyce H. Grier
Director of USNRC
Office of Inspections and Enforcements
Region 1
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406.

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Dear Mr. Grier:

LICENSE NO. DPR-70
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REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 78-24/04T

Pursuant to the requirements of Salem Generating Station Unit No. 1 Environmental Technical Specifications, Section 5.6.2.2, we are submitting Licensee Event Report for Reportable Occurrence 78-24/04T. This report is required within ten (10) days of the occurrence.

Sincerely yours,

F. P. Librizzi ges

F. P. Librizzi
General Manager -
Electric Production

CC: Director, Office of Inspection
and Enforcement (40 copies)
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The Energy People

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Report Number: 78-24/04T
Report Date: 4/27/78
Occurrence Date: 4/20/78
Facility: Salem Generating Station
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

A milk sample collected at environmental sampling location 5F2, during the week of April 10, 1978, had an activity concentration of Iodine 131 which exceeded ten (10) times the control station activity concentration. This event is reportable within ten days of confirmation in accordance with the Salem Environmental Technical Specification, Section 5.6.2.2.1.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

The Salem Generating Station has not operated since March 16, 1978, due to turbine repairs. A review of the station release records indicate that no gaseous Iodine 131 was released into the environment from January thru March 1978. The People's Republic of China detonated a 20 kiloton nuclear device in the atmosphere at their LOB Nor test site in March. Rain water samples taken at location 3H3, which is more than one hundred miles away from the Salem site, indicated a greater than ten fold increase in gross beta radiation levels in rain water during the month of March as compared to January values.

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

On April 17, 1978, Public Service Electric and Gas Company was notified by their contractor laboratory that results of milk samples analyses for the environmental sampling location 5F2, collected on April 10, 1978 and counted on April 16, 1978, indicated an I-131 activity of 4.1 pCi/l. This activity was found to be more than 10 times the control station value of 0.24 pCi/l and is therefore, required to be reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ten days after the results are reconfirmed. The sample was recounted and the results were reconfirmed on April 20, 1978. A similar incident occurred on April 14, 1978 and was previously reported to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission as reportable occurrence number 78-23/04T.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE:

Due to the fact that the Salem Generating Station has not been operating since March 16, 1978, and due to the known radioactive fallout from the Chinese Weapon Test of March 1978 and its subsequent appearance in environmental samples in the Eastern United States, we must conclude that the increase iodine milk concentration activities cannot be attributed to the operation of the Salem Generating Station.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE:

N/A

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

N/A

FAILURE DATA:

N/A

Prepared by Norris C. Allman

SORC Meeting No. 25-78

H. J. Repich
Manager - Salem Generating Station