



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 8, 1989

Docket No. 50-354

Mr. Stever E. Miltenberger
Vice President and Chief Nuclear
Officer
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Post Office Bcx 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Dear Mr. Miltenberger:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 88-01, INTERGRANULAR STRESS CORROSION
CRACKING (TAC NO. 69140)

Re: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

By letter dated July 29, 1988 and supplemented on June 2, 1989 Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) responded to Generic Letter (GL) 88-01 and a request for additional information regarding intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) in BWR austenitic stainless steel piping.

With the assistance of Viking Systems International (VSI), the staff has completed its review of the licensee's response to the GL. The staff's findings are provided in the enclosed safety evaluation report (SER). The staff concurs with the evaluation, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the enclosed VSI technical evaluation report (TER) and has concluded that PSE&G's response is acceptable with the exception of the positions concerning leak detection and the piping ISI program. The staff's positions on these exceptions are discussed in Section 2.0 of the SER. PSE&G's response proposed not incorporating in its technical specification (TS) 1) the unidentified leakage limit of 2 gpm increase in any 24 hour period or less, and 2) a statement regarding a piping in service inspection (ISI) program that would conform to the staff positions in GL 88-01. Furthermore, the leakage monitoring frequency in the TS is once per 12 hours rather than once approximately every 4 hours. Upon further investigation, the staff has concluded that monitoring leakage every four hours creates an unnecessary administrative hardship to plant operators. Thus, RCS leakage measurements may be taken every eight hours instead of every four hours as required in GL 88-01. In addition, the enclosed SE precludes the necessity for PSE&G to submit IGSCC inspection plans for each future outage since the inspection plans were submitted in PSE&G's response. The requirements of GL 88-01 will be incorporated in the Improved Standard TS for BWRs. However, if flaws are found that do not meet Paragraph IWB-3500 criteria of Section XI of the Code for continued operation without evaluation, the evaluation and repairs of the flaws should be submitted to the NRC for review prior to startup.

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GL 88-01 requested that licensees incorporate the leak detection and piping ISI requirements in the TS. PSE&G should followup on their reply to GL 88-01 and submit a TS amendment package that reflects the requirements of the enclosure SE.

Sincerely,

/S/

Walter R. Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation Report
2. Technical Evaluation Report

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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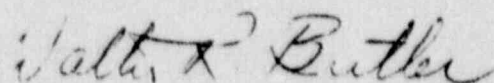
[HC LETTER]

PDI-2/PM
CShiraki:tr
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PDI-2/D
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Sincerely,



Walter R. Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-2
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation Report
2. Technical Evaluation Report

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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Hope Creek Generating Station

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