

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-82-76

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 & Gas Company
Salem Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 1
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey
(Docket No. 50-272)

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

Subject: WELD DEFECTS IN SAFETY RELATED PIPING

On November 22, 1982 a thru-wall leak was discovered in service water piping associated with a component cooling water heat exchanger. This heat exchanger, and associated service water piping, were installed during the Spring 1982 refueling outage to replace a heat exchanger with chronic leakage problems.

Subsequent radiography of welds in this service water piping has identified several significant corrosion problems. Of five field welds radiographed, all have defects. Of 14 shop welds radiographed, 8 have defects. The shop welds were made with 316 stainless steel (316 SS) inserts using 16-8-2 filler rod. The field welds were made with backing rings using E-308-16 filler rods. Piping base material is 316 SS. It is believed that the filler metal and base metal of each type weld are sufficiently dissimilar to promote corrosion cells when in contact with service water (Delaware River). The licensee intends to examine all 54 field and all 87 shop welds in the piping associated with this heat exchanger. Corrective actions are still under development. The unit is currently in a refueling outage. It is estimated that the outage could be extended by up to three months.

Region I received notification of the incident by facsimile from the General Manager, Salem Operations at 2:30 p.m. on November 30. No press release is presently planned by the licensee or the NRC.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only.

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