

United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Report of Investigation

SALEM UNITS 1 AND 2:

FALSIFICATION OF FIRE WATCH PATROL LOGS

Office of Investigations

Reported by OI: RI

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Title: SALEM UNITS 1 AND 2:

FALSIFICATION OF FIRE WATCH PATROL LOGS

Licensee:

Public Service Electric and
Gas Company
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey

Docket Nos.: 50-272/311

Case No.: 1-90-014

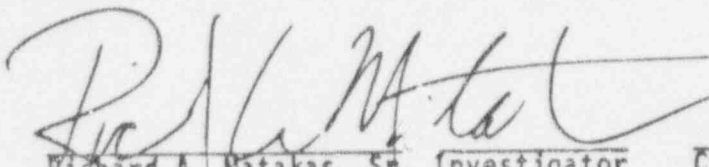
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SYNOPSIS

By written request dated August 14, 1990, OI was requested by the Regional Administrator, Region I, to review Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G's) internal investigation concerning alleged fire watch irregularities at their Salem Nuclear Generating Station. OI was provided with PSE&G's investigation, dated January 16, 1991, by the Region I, Division of Reactor Projects.

OI is unable to assess the adequacy and thoroughness of the investigation because of a lack of documentation or logic that led the licensee to conclude that the allegations being investigated were unsubstantiated.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

The following portions of this Report of Investigation (Case No. 1-90-014) will not be included in the material placed in the PDR. This consist of pages 3 through 11.

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DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Purpose of Investigation

This investigation was initiated to review the adequacy of an internal Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) investigative report concerning alleged fire watch irregularities at their Salem Nuclear Generating Station.

Background

On August 14, 1990, the Regional Administrator, Region I, requested an investigation by the Office of Investigations (OI) for the purpose of conducting an independent review of PSE&G's investigation of possible falsification of fire watch logs (Exhibit 1).

By letter dated August 10, 1990, Region I, NRC, referred the allegations to the licensee, and requested that they conduct an investigation. Further the NRC requested that the licensee submit to Region I their formal investigation and all pertinent documents. (Exhibit 2)

On January 16, 1991, PSE&G submitted the results of their investigation to the NRC (Exhibit 3).

Review of Documentation

OI conducted a review of the documentation submitted by PSE&G and was unable to access the adequacy and thoroughness of the investigative effort that led to their conclusions that the allegations (Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6) were not valid. This is especially true of Allegations No. 3 and 4.

Allegation No. 5 was found to be unsubstantiated based on a technical evaluation. This matter should be reviewed by the Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards.

Allegation No. 6 identified three individuals who allegedly "have knowledge of fire watch problems (redacted)". Regarding (redacted) the licensee's report references Attachment No. 16 which is a July 20, 1990, interview of (redacted) to discuss "falsification of personnel access questionnaire." It appears to have been a hostile interview ending with (redacted) stating that "he did not want to discuss any further concerns at this time." This interview appears to have been conducted prior to the NRC's receiving the current allegations and there is no indication that there was an attempt to recontact (redacted) concerning the current allegations. 7C

Regarding (redacted) the licensee's report states that, "this individual was interviewed," and references Attachment No. 11. However, Attachment No. 11 is a "Fire Hazard/Incident Report."

Regarding (redacted) Attachment No. 12 appears to be some type of memo authored by (redacted) concerning "the matter of fire watch (redacted)." however, it does not appear that he was interviewed in the context of the current allegation identified as Allegation No. 6.

Conclusion

Based on a thorough review of the documentation, it is concluded that the PSE&G investigation is unsatisfactory in that it does not appear to be thorough and/or lacked documentation to support conclusions.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

OI previously conducted a review of PSE&G's internal investigation into security training and qualifications (OI Investigation No. A1-90-019). OI concluded that this PSE&G investigation also lacked the documentation and/or thoroughness to support the PSE&G conclusions.

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LIST OF EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Region I Request for Investigation, dated August 14, 1990.
2	Letter with Enclosures, dated August 10, 1990, from Region I to PSE&G.
3	Letter, dated January 16, 1991, from PSE&G to the NRC, Transmitting the Results of the PSE&G Investigation.