



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406 1415

September 19, 1995

EA 95-160

Mr. Leon R. Eliason  
Chief Nuclear Officer and President  
Nuclear Business Unit  
Public Service Electric and Gas Company  
Post Office Box 236  
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR HOPE CREEK  
(OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT 1-94-048)

Dear Mr. Eliason:

This letter refers to the investigation conducted by the NRC Office of Investigations (OI) concerning findings set forth in your internal investigation report issued on October 11, 1994, and in your Licensee Event Report (LER), dated October 14, 1994. The LER and your investigation dealt with the failure of your Senior Nuclear Shift Supervisor (SNSS) to disclose a known violation of a Technical Specification at Hope Creek by failing to prepare an incident report (as required by your procedures) after determining that there was not a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) in the control room for approximately three minutes on June 3, 1992, when the reactor was operational. Your technical specifications require that a person holding an SRO license for the nuclear power plant be in the control room at all times when your unit is in Operational Condition 1. In addition, this event was not reported to the NRC in an LER within 30 days, as required, which constitutes another violation of NRC requirements. Both violations are described in the enclosed Notice.

With respect to the first violation, on June 3, 1992, the on-duty SNSS left the control room to attend a staff meeting in the office of the Operations Manager and turned the "command and control" function over to the on-duty Nuclear Shift Supervisor (NSS) (also an SRO). The on-duty NSS subsequently wanted to check the status of maintenance being done outside of the control room. Since the SNSS was still absent from the control room at the time, the on-duty NSS requested another NSS (also an SRO) to relieve him. While the on-duty NSS was out of the control room, the other NSS also left the control room for approximately three minutes, thereby leaving no SRO in the control room during that period due to a breakdown in communications among the involved individuals.

When the SNSS was apprised later of what had occurred by the individuals involved, he did not develop an incident report relative to this matter, and he did not record or report the occurrence in accordance with applicable station procedures. As a result of his failure to complete the incident report, Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) management was not apprised of the event, and an LER was not issued to the NRC until more than two years later.

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Based on the information developed from the NRC and licensee investigations, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. Given the short period of time that the condition existed, and the fact that all three SROs were nearby with quick access to the control room, if needed, the two violations are each classified at Severity Level IV in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), (NUREG-1600; 60 FR 34381, June 30, 1995). Nonetheless, the NRC is concerned that the SNSS, when he became aware of the incident, did not complete an incident report as required by your procedures. Since the SNSS was aware that the incident constituted an off-normal event, and since the SNSS was aware that off-normal events required completion of an incident report, his failure to do so constitutes a violation of his SRO license which requires him to comply with all of your procedures. A separate Notice of Violation is being issued on this date to the SNSS relative to his conduct of operations, which led to your failure to issue an LER concerning this incident promptly. While the NRC believes the other two SROs involved in the incident also should have taken action to report the incident, we are taking specific enforcement action against the SNSS only, based on his overall responsibility in the incident.

The NRC recognizes that these violations were identified during your internal investigation and promptly reported to the NRC once identified by PSE&G management. The NRC also recognizes that you took prompt action to initiate an investigation after receiving indications that the event occurred; and you took significant corrective actions. The corrective actions included development of remediation plans by the SNSS, and other involved personnel; disciplinary actions regarding the individuals; reinforcement of the command and control turnover process expectations; communication of management's expectations regarding the initiation of incident reports; and placing a mechanical restraint on all SRO identification photo badges as an additional barrier to prevent recurrence of the control room staffing incident. The incident demonstrates the importance of proper communications among the SROs at the facility, as well as prompt completion of incident reports when incidents occur.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. In your response, you may reference, as appropriate, prior submittals to the NRC regarding this matter. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Public Service Electric and  
Gas Company

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The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Sincerely,



Thomas T. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-354  
License No. NPF-57

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. OI Synopsis

cc w/encls:

L. Storz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations  
E. Simpson, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Engineering  
J. Hagan, Vice President - Business Support  
C. Schaefer, External Operations - Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.  
P. MacFarland Goetz, Manager, Joint Generation Atlantic Electric  
R. Burricelli, Director - External Affairs  
M. Reddemann, General Manager - Hope Creek Operations  
J. Benjamin, Director - Quality Assurance & Nuclear Safety Review  
F. Thomson, Manager - Licensing and Regulation  
R. Kankus, Joint Owner Affairs  
A. Tapert, Program Administrator  
R. Fryling, Jr., Esquire  
M. Wetterhahn, Esquire  
Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate  
W. Conklin, Public Safety Consultant, Lower Alloways Creek Township  
State of New Jersey  
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Public Service Electric and  
Gas Company

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Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek

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