

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Salem Unit 2

Docket No: 50-311
License No: DPR-75
EA No. 84-70

On May 29-30, 1984, an NRC special inspection was conducted to review the circumstances associated with a violation of a technical specification limiting condition for operation. An "on-the-spot" change was made on May 28, 1984 to an operating procedure governing the method used to periodically vent the containment atmosphere to maintain pressure control. This temporary change, authorized by two senior licensed operators, blocked the automatic isolation function of the containment purge and pressure-vacuum relief valves on high containment gaseous activity which was present at the time. Technical Specifications and the operating procedure both specify contingency action to be taken when the automatic isolation signal of the containment gaseous monitor is inoperable. Specifically, the plant vent gaseous monitor may be used as an alternative if its setpoints are reduced. However, this contingency was deleted by the "on-the-spot" change.

The violation demonstrates inadequate review prior to the use of the "on-the-spot change" process.

In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy (10 CFR 2, Appendix C) published in the Federal Register on March 8, 1984 (40 FR 8583), the violation is set forth below.

Technical Specifications 3.3.2, 3.3.3.1 and 3.9.9 require that the containment gaseous radiation monitor be operable, or the plant vent gaseous radiation monitor be operable with reduced setpoints, to provide automatic purge and pressure vacuum relief isolation capability during plant venting operations. If these conditions are not met, each of the purge and pressure-vacuum relief penetrations providing direct access from the containment atmosphere to the outside atmosphere are to be kept closed.

Contrary to the above, on May 28, 1984 between 7:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m., the containment gaseous radiation monitor was inoperable in that the isolation signal was blocked, and the plant vent gaseous radiation monitor isolation setpoint was not reduced, resulting in a loss of this automatic purge and pressure-vacuum relief isolation capability, and during this period, penetrations which provide direct access from the containment atmosphere to the outside atmosphere were not closed and a containment venting operation was conducted.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement 1)

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Public Service Electric and Gas Company is hereby required to submit to this office within 30 days of the date of the letter transmitting this Notice, a written statement or explanation in reply, including for each violation: (1) the corrective steps which have been taken and the results achieved; (2) the corrective steps which will be taken to

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avoid further violations; and (3) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the response time.