

November 23, 1998

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Business Unit
Public Service Electric and Gas Company
P. O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-354/98-10
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Keiser:

On October 31, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Hope Creek reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Throughout the six-week period covered by this inspection period, your conduct of activities at the Hope Creek facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls.

During the inspection, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding it are described in the enclosed inspection report. The violation was identified by NRC inspectors and was related to performing a single cell charge on a safety-related battery cell in a configuration prohibited by station procedures. Of particular concern was that a similar instance was recently identified by the NRC at your Salem facility in May 1998, however, your efforts were not effective in preventing this Hope Creek occurrence. The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in the enclosed report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

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Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

James C. Linville, Chief
Projects Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-354

License No: NPF-57

Enclosures: Notice of Violation
Inspection Report 50-354/98-10

cc w/encl:

L. Storz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations
E. Simpson, Senior Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
E. Salowitz, Director - Nuclear Business Support
A. F. Kirby, III, External Operations - Nuclear, Delmarva Power & Light Co.
J. A. Isabella, Manager, Joint Generation
Atlantic Electric
M. Bezilla, General Manager - Hope Creek Operations
J. McMahon, Director - QA/Nuclear Training/Emergency Preparedness
D. Powell, Director - Licensing/Regulation & Fuels
R. Kankus, Joint Owner Affairs
A. C. Tapert, Program Administrator
Jeffrey J. Keenan, Esquire
Consumer Advocate, Office of Consumer Advocate
William Conklin, Public Safety Consultant, Lower Alloways Creek Township
State of New Jersey
State of Delaware

Mr. Harold W. Keiser

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