

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

October 23, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-180

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Public Service Electric and Gas Company (New Jersey)
Salem Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey
(DN 50-272)

Subject: REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL FAILURE

During a plant startup at 8:30 a.m. on October 21, 1978, the shaft seal on the No. 13 Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP) failed. The reactor coolant system was at a pressure of 850 pounds per square inch and a temperature of 320 degrees F. Approximately 15,000 gallons of water leaked to the containment before the plant could be depressurized. No radioactivity was released to the environment.

Examination and repairs of the RCP seal are in-progress. The plant will remain shut down for an estimated 3-5 days.

This PN is issued for information only. The Resident Inspector is on site following up on the repair work.

Media interest has been indicated. Coverage occurred on local TV and in newspapers on October 22, 1978. The State of New Jersey has been informed. A press release was issued by the licensee.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the station's Chief Engineer at 1:00 p.m., October 21, 1978.

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