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REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

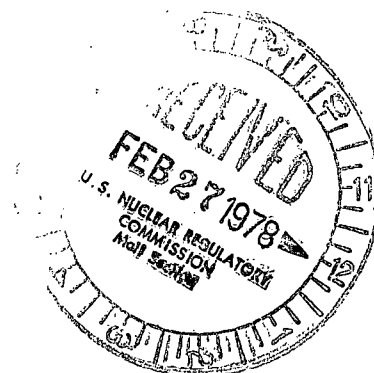
Public Service Electric and Gas Company 80 Park Place Newark, N.J. 07101 Phone 201/430-7000

February 21, 1978

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

RESPONSE TO NRC CONCERNS
REACTOR CAVITY ANNULUS SEAL RING
NO. 1 UNIT
SALEM GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-272



In response to the NRC's letter to all PWR licensees, dated February 2, 1978, we submit the following information:

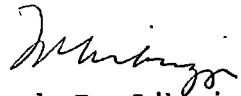
- a) The reactor cavity annulus seal ring (used as a water seal during refueling operations) is a steel ring held in either the "sealed" position or "raised" position by clamps which are permanently attached to the reactor cavity floor. The seal ring is placed in the "sealed" position for refueling operations and in the "raised" position during normal plant operation. This ring is presently in the "raised" position. There is no biological shielding installed in the annular area above the seal ring.
- b) There has been no analysis performed to demonstrate the missile potential of the seal ring, nor is such an analysis planned.
- c) Preparations have been made to remove the seal ring at the first outage which is estimated to extend for at least three (3) days but no later than the first refueling outage scheduled to start in January 1979.

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- d) We recognize that the integrity of the seal ring in the event of a LOCA has not been confirmed. However, the extremely low probability of a LOCA event coupled with the probability that the seal ring would in fact become a missile and also affect the ability of the control rods to shut down the reactor leads us to the conclusion that a special plant shutdown for the purpose of removing the seal ring is unwarranted.

If you have any additional questions please don't hesitate to call us.

Very truly yours



Frank P. Librizzi
General Manager -
Electric Production