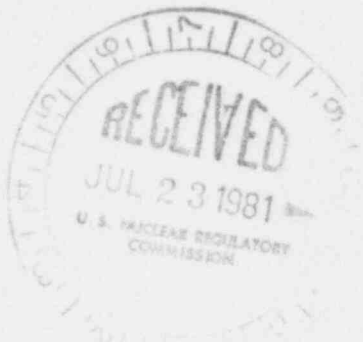
50.55(e)

Thomas J. Martin
Vice President
Engineering and Construction

Public Service Electric and Gas Company 80 Park Plaza Newark, N.J. 07101 201/430-8316

July 14, 1981



Mr. Boyce H. Grier, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

SPOOL WELD BUILDUP INSUFFICIENT EXAMINATION
10CFR50.55(e), POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY
NO. 1 AND 2 UNITS
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On October 30, 1980, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. J. Mattia, advising of a potential significant item involving inadequate nondestructive examination of weld buildups by a supplier of safety related pipe. Supplemental information was supplied to the NRC in writing on November 12, 1980, December 19, 1980, and March 4, 1981.

In addition, a detailed report of our investigation into this matter was submitted on April 1, 1981, in final response to your Inspection Report 50-354/79-04. That information is incorporated in this report by reference. The content of the April 1, 1981, letter was also reviewed with a representative of Region I on April 23, 1981; reference Inspection Report 50-354/81-05.

Bechtel Power Corporation has completed and evaluated the repairs to the pipe spools identified in our April 1, 1981, letter.

The indications found by surface examination of the weld buildups on the two nuclear Class 2 spools were eliminated by cosmetic grinding, without any encroachment on the minimum specified wall thickness.

IE27
S
1/0

The indications found by radiography of the weld buildups on the ten nuclear Class 3 spools were eliminated by grinding, with subsequent weld repair to restore specified wall thickness. All of these weld buildups were located on field ends and were surface examined by Dravo in accordance with their shop procedure. The surface examination performed by Dravo assured a weld quality consistent with that required by ASME

Section III and Bechtel Specification P-201(Q) for the eventual buttweld of the joint (buttwelds in 150-lb, nuclear Class 3 piping requires only a surface examination).

The indications found by the additional radiography consisted of porosity, slag, and lack of fusion. The amount and severity of the indications have been evaluated to be such that had they remained undetected, would not have affected serviceability of the piping and, therefore, safe operation of the plant.

Therefore, we do not consider this problem to be a significant deficiency, and we do not consider it reportable under 10CFR50.55(e).

Very truly yours,

T Thomas

CC: Office of Inspection & Enforcement
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection
Washington, D.C.

H. E. Morris
Bechtel Power Corporation
San Francisco, California

NRC Resident Inspector
Hope Creek Generating Station

AP2 1/2