



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

July 20, 1981

Mr. Boyce H. Grier
Director of USNRC
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region 1
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Grier:

LICENSE NO. DPR-75
DOCKET NO. 50-311
REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE 81-44/04T



Pursuant to the requirements of Salem Generating Station Unit No. 2 Technical Specifications, Section 5.6.2.2, we are submitting Licensee Event Report for Reportable Occurrence 81-44/04T. This report is required within fourteen (14) days of the occurrence.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. Uderitz
General Manager -
Nuclear Production

CC: Director, Office of Inspection
and Enforcement (40) copies)
Director, Office of Management
Information and Program Control
(3 copies)

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CENTENNIAL OF LIGHT



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PDR ADOCK 05000311
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Report Number: 81-44/04T
Report Date: July 20, 1981
Occurrence Date: 7-7-81
Facility: Salem Generating Station, Unit 2
Public Service Electric & Gas Company
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08039

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

Inadvertent Contamination Of On-Site Storage Area.
This report was initiated by Incident Report 81-235.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

Mode 3 - Rx Power 0% - 0 MWe

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

At 1800 hours, June 7, 1981, a routine radiation survey of the fenced in storage area outside No. 2 fuel handling building revealed contamination in excess of 10 times normal background. The contamination was discovered in the area where the old No. 2 spent fuel storage racks had been stored after decontamination in preparation for shipment for disposal. The area was roped off and further radiation surveys were undertaken.

DESIGNATION OF APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE:

Personnel error. Failure to properly protect the ground from possible contamination.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE:

When the spent fuel storage racks were removed from the Unit 2 spent fuel pool, they were decontaminated in accordance with station procedures. The resultant radiation levels were determined to be from previously fixed contamination. The spent fuel storage racks were placed in the restricted fenced in yard next to the No. 2 fuel handling building awaiting disposal. While awaiting disposal normal rainfall occurred. The rinsing of the racks, with slightly acidic rain, along with the higher outside temperatures, apparently caused some contamination to wash off the racks on to the surface of the yard.

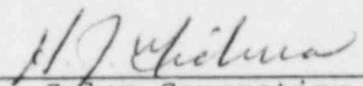
July 20, 1981

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

The contaminated area was surveyed to map out the exact locations of the contamination. The contaminated dirt and stones have been removed and stored in sealed drums while awaiting shipment to a burial site. The contamination was found not to have spread and the yard drains contained no trace of contamination. Due to the uniqueness of this situation, no procedural changes are anticipated at this time. Personnel have been counseled in the proper methods of radioactive material storage.

FAILURE DATA:

Not Applicable

Prepared By J. J. EspeySORC Meeting No. 81-63

Manager - Salem Generating Station