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Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

Thomas J. Martin
Vice President
Engineering and Construction

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February 15, 1983

Mr. Ronald C. Haynes, Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Dear Mr. Haynes:

SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
EMERGENCY DIESEL GENERATOR - "O" RINGS
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On December 13, 1982, a verbal report was made to Region I, Office of Inspection and Enforcement representative, Mr. L. Tripp, advising of a potentially significant construction deficiency concerning our emergency diesel generators. An interim report on this matter was sent to your office on January 11, 1983. The following information is provided in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e).

It has been determined that if the cooling water becomes contaminated with diesel fuel by some inadvertent means, an elastomer seal ("O" ring) in the Robertshaw thermostatic valves could swell and cause binding or complete malfunction of the valve plug. This would result in the degradation or complete loss of temperature control.

The reported purpose of the O-ring is to limit bypass leakage during factory testing but, per Robertshaw, serves no useful purpose during operation. The Robertshaw recommended fix is to remove the O-ring.

Had this condition gone undetected and uncorrected there was the potential for loss of one or more of the four standby diesel generator sets. These units are safety related and supply power to engineered safeguard equipment and other safety related equipment required for safe shutdown of the plant, in the event offsite power is not available.

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It has been determined, therefore, that this condition is reportable in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e).

To ensure that the above sequence of events does not occur, the elastomer seals shall be removed from Diesel Generator Sets No. 1DG400 and 1BG400. Sets No. 1AG400 and 1CG400 shall be inspected to verify that Colt Industries had removed these seals prior to their shipment to the Hope Creek site. This remedial action is scheduled for completion by March 31, 1983.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Martin".

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

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek
P. O. Box 241
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

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