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

February 24, 1983

50-354

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:

POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCY
SCRIBED LINES ON PIPE CIRCUMFERENCE
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION

On January 24, 1983, 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 lines scribed on small bore piping used in gauging socket weld locations. The following interim report is provided in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.55(e).

Description of Deficiency

Hope Creek construction procedures require that a circumferential line be scribed adjacent to socket welds on small bore pipe for measurement purposes. This line may be made by any permanent method that does not result in sharp discontinuities in the surface of the pipe.

On December 6, 1982, Quality Control personnel in the containment area noted that the lines scribed on three pieces of stainless steel small bore pipe had been made with a tubing cutter, resulting in sharp surface discontinuities and possibly violating minimum wall thickness requirements. Nonconformance Report No. 1939 was initiated to document and control the hardware discrepancies.

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By January 24, 1983, a preliminary investigation had determined that as many as 320 socket weld joints in the containment area may have been similarly affected. Since then, the investigation into the scope of the problem has been expanded to include other areas of the plant. Affected sections of pipe are being identified on Nonconformance Report No. 1939 and will be corrected as dispositioned by Bechtel Project Engineering. The disposition will also address the wall thickness concern.

Analysis of Safety Implications

The analysis of safety implications is dependent upon completion of the investigation described above and will be included in our final report.

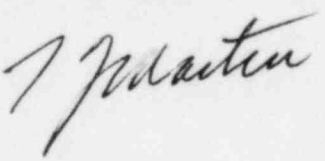
Corrective Action

On December 7, 1982, a memorandum was issued to the appropriate supervisory and engineering personnel listing acceptable methods for scribing small bore piping. Bechtel is also planning to revise their General Welding Specification to preclude recurrence of this situation.

On January 31, 1983, Bechtel revised their Quality Control Instruction W-1.00 incorporating a QC inspection activity for scribing of socket welded small bore piping.

A final report will be submitted to your office by April 30, 1983.

Very truly yours,



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

NRC Resident Inspector - Hope Creek
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