



Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038

Nuclear Department

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AUG 2 1991

NLR-E91205

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Hazardous Substance Control
Division of Water Resources
P.O. Box 2809
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Gentlemen:

HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
NJPDES NJ0025411
OIL RELEASE

On July 26, 1991, a suspected release to the Delaware River of less than 1 gallon of fuel oil was reported at the Hope Creek Generating Station. This was reported to the NJDEP Hotline (Case 91-07-26-1509-30) and the National Response Center (Case 81150). Release estimation was based on sheen iridescence and size (30 feet wide X 180 feet long).

This report has been prepared to satisfy the requirements under NJAC 7:1E-2.2 and NJPDES Permit NJ0025411, Part I, 14.D.

BACKGROUND

This facility uses various oils throughout the site. Oily wastes are collected and directed to a Low Volume Oily Water (LVOWS) treatment system, DSN 461C, prior to discharge to the Delaware River via the Cooling Tower Blowdown discharge line, DSN 461A, in accordance with NJPDES Permit NJ0025411. Petroleum Hydrocarbons is a permit limited constituent of this outfall.

The LVOWS is an API-type separator designed for removal of solid and floatable materials utilizing gravity separation. Influent flows are dependent upon water collection rates.

EVENT DESCRIPTION

At approximately 1330 hours on July 26, 1991, personnel observed a sheen on the Delaware River in the vicinity of Hope Creek Generating Station and reported to the Control Room operators. They in turn notified the site Fire Department at 1335 hours. The Fire Department responded to the scene and by 1352 hours confirmed the presence of an oil sheen in the process of breaking

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up. They notified the Licensing and Regulation Department requesting regulatory follow-up assistance.

Release source identification was unconfirmed until 1502 hours when it was determined that the probable source was the LVOWS. Even though the actual release had self terminated by that time, the system and its feeder lift stations were shutdown pending further investigation. Residual fuel oil, found in an upstream sump, may have precipitated the event.

Less than 1 gallon of oil was estimated released through the NJPDES permitted discharge 461A during the course of this event. In consideration of the short term of the event, the small quantity involved and the particular discharge path, identification and corrective actions were accomplished in a timely manner.

SUMMARY

In summary, this incident involved the release of less than 1 gallon of fuel oil from the LVOWS, DSN 461C, which discharges to Cooling Tower Blowdown, DSN 461A and subsequently to the Delaware River.

A sheen, initially observed at approximately 1330 hours on July 26, 1991, was determined at 1502 hours to be a discharge which had terminated and was reported as such to the NJDEP Hotline and National Response Center at approximately 1510 hours. The event lasted approximately one hour and terminated prior to discovery.

Plant personnel reviewed plant operating records without identifying a clear cause. At this time, it appears to be related to free fuel oil entering the system temporarily overloading the LVOWS and causing a bypass.

The contents of the separator and all related equipment has been removed for disposal at a licensed off-site hazardous waste management facility and the separator disassembled and cleaned prior to being returned to service. After reassembly, the treatment system was returned to service on July 30, 1991 and has operated in compliance with its discharge limitations.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Paul D. Behrens at (609) 339-1577.

Sincerely,

F. Thomson, Jr.

Frank X. Thomson, Jr.
Manager - Licensing & Regulation

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