



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

Nuclear Department

MAR 10 1992

NLR-N92033

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
Attention: Document Control Desk

Gentlemen:

MINUTES OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
FIRE PROTECTION ISSUES
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354

On Tuesday, March 4, 1992, a telephone conference was held between USNRC and PSE&G to discuss the use and testing requirements of PVC insulated electrical cables as discussed in the Standard Review Plan (SRP), NUREG 0800, and several related issues. Below is a list of persons involved in the conference:

USNRC Personnel

S. Dembek NRR/PD1-2
D. Notley NRR/SPLE
K. Lathrop RES INSP Hope Creek

PSE&G Personnel

R. Bashall Nuclear Eng'g Sciences
R. Braddick Nuclear Eng'g Sciences
G. Schroeder Nuclear Eng'g Sciences
J. Cicconi Hope Creek Projects
R. Backwith Licensing & Regulation
M. Cirelly Licensing & Regulation

During the course of the teleconference, PSE&G requested clarification of the relationship between SRP Section 9.5.1, paragraph C.5.d(3), which states, in part, "Use of plastics should be minimized. In particular, halogenated plastics such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and neoprene should be used only when substitute materials are not available...", and paragraph C.5.e(3), which mandates that, "Electric cable construction should, as a minimum, pass the flame test in the current IEEE Standard 383."

Mr. Notley stated that, following the Brown's Ferry incident, NRC wrote SRP Section 9.5.1, paragraph C.5.d(3) to focus attention on non-combustible vs. plastic construction materials such as vinyl flooring and other plastic materials used as interior finishes. With respect to cable insulation, Mr. Notley recalled that, at that time, most fire retardant cables were insulated/jacketed with plastic containing a fire retardant additive. The main thrust of C.5.e(3) was geared to selection of an insulation/jacket material with improved fire/flame spread resistance over that installed at Brown's Ferry.

The Energy People

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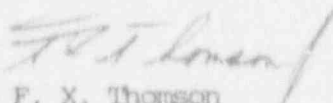
Mr. Notley emphasized that NRC never placed any restraint on material for electric cable insulation and that any electrical cables (including those made of PVC) that pass the IEEE Std. 383 flame test would be acceptable for use.

Mr. Bashall questioned the acceptability of using electrical cable that has been flame tested in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. test standard, UL 1581 in lieu of IEEE 383. He mentioned that PSE&G has conducted a preliminary review of both standards and found the UL testing to be similar to, if not the same as, IEEE Standard 383. Mr. Notley, who did not have copies of the subject standards readily available, questioned their equivalence. Mr. Schroeder described the pertinent testing similarities and Mr. Beckwith offered to send copies of both standards for Mr. Notley's use. Mr. Notley indicated that he would review the UL 1581 standard against the IEEE standard and advise PSE&G at a later date. Copies of both standards are being transmitted separately.

Mr. Beckwith suggested that PSE&G docket the minutes of this conference to support any future PSE&G reliance on the NRR positions stated. Mr. Notley considered this a reasonable and prudent idea.

Please contact us if the NRC position on this issue differs from the above discussion. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. R. Beckwith, of my staff, at (609) 339-1240.

Sincerely,



F. X. Thomson
Manager - Nuclear
Licensing & Regulation

C Mr. T. T. Martin, Administrator
USNRC Region I

Mr. S. Dembek
USNRC Licensing Project Manager

Mr. T. P. Johnson
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. K. Tosch, Chief,
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection