



Public Service Electric and Gas Company P.O. Box 236 Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey 08038-0236

Nuclear Business Unit

SEP 30 1996

LR-N96307

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

**SPECIAL REPORT 96-02
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354**

This Special Report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Hope Creek Technical Specification 3.3.7.5-1, Action 81 b, due to the South Plant Vent (SPV) High Range Noble Gas Monitor being inoperable for more than 72 hours.

On September 16, 1996, Technical Specification Action Statements 3.3.7.5, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation", and 3.3.7.11, "Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation", were entered due to inoperability of the SPV Radiation Monitoring System (RMS). The SPV RMS inoperability was caused by an upward trend in indicated SPV RMS stack flow which resulted in flow instrumentation being outside of the acceptance criteria specified in the surveillance procedure. Upon the system being declared inoperable, the Radiation Protection department stopped the radioactive gaseous effluent monitoring sample pump, which eliminated automatic start capability of the accident monitoring sample pump and rendered it inoperable. Compliance with required compensatory actions was met.

Inoperability of the SPV RMS on July 2, 1996 was documented in Special Report 96-01 dated July 16, 1996. As committed, the flow instrument loop was bench tested satisfactorily with a new flow transmitter and pneumatic to current converter and the SPV RMS was returned to operable status. Following approximately 6 weeks of satisfactory operation, the SPV RMS flow instrumentation began drifting high again, resulting in a brief period (<72 hours) of inoperability on September 5, 1996 after which the square root extractor was replaced. Approximately 9 days later, the flow instrumentation began to drift at an even higher rate which resulted in the inoperable condition on September 16, 1996.

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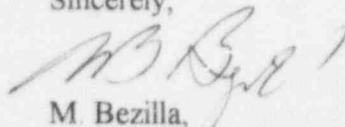
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The apparent causes of the repeat drifting in the flow instrumentation were defective pneumatic amplifiers in the square root extractors. The final cause and any additional corrective actions will be documented in the Corrective Action Program.

An SPV RMS action plan has been developed that will result in the pneumatic instrumentation being replaced with electronic instrumentation to prevent the recurrence of this problem. The expected completion date of the modification is October 31, 1996. The South Plant Vent Radiation Monitoring System will be returned to operable status upon completion of the modification and satisfactory testing.

Should you have any questions or comments on this transmittal, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Bezilla', is written over the printed name.

M. Bezilla,
General Manager -
Hope Creek Operations

LMK/mrh

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