



PSEG Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

80 Park Plaza, Newark, NJ 07101 / 201 430-8217 MAILING ADDRESS / P.O. Box 570, Newark, NJ 07101

Robert L. Mittl General Manager
Nuclear Assurance and Regulation

July 16, 1985

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Attention: Mr. Walter Butler, Chief
Licensing Branch 2
Division of Licensing

Gentlemen:

RESPONSE TO PVORT OPEN ITEM 1.A.
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-354

Pursuant to the NRC PVORT/SQRT audit held at the Hope Creek Generating Station on May 7-10, 1985, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) hereby submits response to PVORT Open Item 1.A - Service Water Pump (AD-502) Event. This issue concerns determination of the precise cause of the diminished seal water leakoff flow experienced by service water pump.

Response to the remaining concerns associated with this issue; namely, safety of system design and adequacy of pump instrumentation, will be submitted to the NRC by July 31, 1985.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Attachment

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The Energy People

Director of Nuclear
Reactor Regulation

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C D. H. Wagner
USNRC Licensing Project Manager

A. R. Blough
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector

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ATTACHMENT

PVORT AUDIT OPEN ITEM - 1.A
SERVICE WATER PUMP (AD-502) EVENT

The diminished seal water leakoff flow for the subject pump was the result of only one of two cyclone separators in service and improperly packing the pump. The pumps are designed to operate with bearing and seal water flow from the discharge of two parallel cyclone separators supplying a common inlet header. When the pump was secured and the separators removed to check for obstructions, it was discovered that one of the separators had a blank installed on its discharge.

The other separator had some debris accumulated over the dirty water discharge, however, it cannot be determined if this was obstructing clearwater flow to the seals because of unrelated packing problems. A decision was made to install a temporary modification to switch the seal water supply from service water to clean water off the fire water system and to bypass the separators.

The scored packing was removed and replaced using the same bevel type cut on the rings. When the pump was restarted, there was inadequate seal leakoff flow and the packing gland overheated again even with a clean seal water supply. The packing was changed again, and it was noted that the packing retaining ring may have been slightly cocked. New packing was installed but the cut on the rings was switched to a square cut. The pump was placed in service and operated acceptably with an adequate leakoff flow. This change was made to the other pumps.

Since these events occurred, the temporary modification has been removed and the seal water supply is back to its original configuration from the Service Water System feeding two cyclone separators. The system has been operated per design with no problems with packing gland temperature or leakoff flow.

DJD:dh

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