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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS \$50,000
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AT SALEM NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has cited Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), of New Jersey, for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station in Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey. The staff proposed a \$50,000 fine.

The Technical Specifications (TS) of Salem's license require that procedures be established, implemented and maintained for equipment control, for the control of maintenance and the control of radioactivity.

Salem was cited for eight alleged violations of this technical specification. NRC inspectors compiled the examples during an inspection from October 17 to November 27, 1993. The alleged violations include: 1) performing maintenance on equipment without appropriate tagging to ensure that it was safe to work on; 2) removing tags from equipment without first ensuring that maintenance had been completed; 3) failing to adhere to written instructions for performing work; and, 4) failing to prepare a work order before doing maintenance on certain components, systems and plant structures.

In a letter to PSE&G, Thomas T. Martin, Administrator, NRC Region I, said, "These violations, in our view, are a direct result of continued demonstrated weaknesses in performance of first line supervisors and middle management at the Salem facility and is of concern to NRC." He also said, "While none of these violations were significant from a nuclear safety perspective, some demonstrated the potential to cause physical harm to individuals. Collectively, the violations demonstrated that weaknesses exist in the maintenance and control of work process activities, which could, under other circumstances, adversely affect the operability of safety related equipment at the facility."

PSE&G has 30 days either to pay the proposed fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The utility also has 30 days to admit or deny the alleged violations, to describe the actions it has taken or plans to take to prevent their happening in the future, and to give the date by which it expects to be in full compliance with NRC requirements.

The State of New Jersey was informed of this enforcement action.

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