

August 1998

Pipe failure via weld rupture at KCP&L Hawthorne Unit 5

Failure section was a seam-welded, main steam lead in the penthouse

Pipe was 18"OD with 2.735" wall

Failure length was ~9ft with a 7.5" maximum opening

The failed pipe was a vertical section of the lead

Piping supplied by CE

Unit in service in 1969 - no info re operating hours

No inspections performed on pipe - utility believed piping was seamless

No info re pipe material

Nominal operating conditions are 2400psi at 1005degF (design 2780/1015)

No personnel injuries but extensive damage to plant.