

February 3, 2000

LICENSEES: Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Company and Duke Energy Corporation (Duke)

FACILITIES: Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, (CCNPP) Unit Nos. 1 and 2 and Oconee Nuclear Station, (ONS) Unit Nos. 1, 2, and 3

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JANUARY 18, 2000, MEETING WITH BGE AND DUKE REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL ACTIVITIES FOR CCNPP AND ONS

On January 18, 2000, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting with representatives of BGE and Duke at Rockville, Maryland, to discuss the status of the NRC's review of BGE's and Duke's license renewal applications (LRAs) for the CCNPP Units 1 and 2 and the ONS Units 1, 2, and 3. Enclosure 1 to this meeting summary provides a list of the meeting attendees. Enclosure 2 provides a copy of slides that were used by NRC, BGE, and Duke to summarize the status of the review of BGE's and Duke's LRAs.

Highlights from the BGE portion of the meeting:

The staff and BGE noted that several major accomplishments had occurred since the last meeting. Specifically, the SER for Calvert Cliffs was published as a NUREG, the Region I inspection was completed, the Regional Administrator letter was issued, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) letter was issued. In addition, a Commission paper regarding the staff's recommendation on Calvert Cliff's license renewal was issued on January 14, 2000. The staff noted that the Commission paper had not yet been released to the public. The staff stated that it would pursue early public release of the document because of the amount of public interest in the paper.

Because of the issuance of the Commission paper, the staff questioned if any more management meetings with BGE were necessary. There was general agreement that future meetings were not necessary, therefore, it was not expected that BGE would be a participant in the next management meeting tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2000. However, BGE did express interest in participating with NEI in the next license renewal steering committee meeting which was also tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2000. In addition, if it appeared that management meetings would be beneficial, then the staff would schedule these meetings with BGE.

The staff asked BGE if they had any comments regarding how an issue was handled that was identified late in the license renewal process. The issue involved aging effects for insulated medium-voltage cables subject to moisture. The staff had raised this question for both BGE and Duke based on a recent event at Davis Besse (see morning report H-99-0104 dated December 3, 1999, for details). The staff stated that it believed it handled the late identification of the issue consistent with the process that had been described to the license renewal steering committee. The staff also stated that it was pleased with how quickly BGE reacted to the staff's question. (BGE responded to this issue in a letter dated January 12, 2000).

BGE stated that it was also generally pleased with how the issue was handled. BGE stated that its initial reaction to the issue was that it was a 10 CFR Part 50 issue and not a 10 CFR Part 54 issue. After further consideration, BGE handled the issue as though it was an open item identified three months earlier. BGE also expressed concern that at one point in the process it appeared that they were being driven to a solution before all the facts were in regarding the Davis Besse event. BGE stated that it believed reason prevailed in the end, and the issue was addressed properly.

Highlights from the Duke portion of the meeting:

The staff noted that the final supplemental environmental impact statement for ONS was issued to the Environmental Protection Agency on December 9, 1999, which was ahead of schedule. The staff also noted that communications continue to be good and all issues associated with the safety review have been resolved. The staff noted that it was in the process of assembling the safety evaluation report so that it could be issued by February 12, 2000.

The staff and Duke then discussed other items that would be needed for a Commission decision regarding ONS. Specifically, the staff and Duke discussed the form and content of the license, the supplement to the updated final safety analysis report (UFSAR), the Region II inspection, and the ACRS meetings. Regarding the form and content of the license, Duke stated that the license amendment to remove license conditions from the current license that are no longer applicable is scheduled to be issued to the staff the week of January 24, 2000. For the renewed license itself, Duke stated that some "grace period" would be needed to implement all of the commitments related to license renewal into the UFSAR and related documents at the site. The staff stated that it would share the form and content of the proposed Calvert Cliffs license with Duke and schedule a meeting with Duke to discuss the form and content of the license for Oconee. Duke stated that it would propose language regarding the "grace period" for the meeting.

Regarding the UFSAR supplement, Duke noted that it would provide the supplement in early February and that it may not provide another update based on the staff issuing the SER. Instead Duke would provide a final version to incorporate the staff's comments. The staff stated that it hoped only one iteration would be necessary. The staff and Duke noted that the region II inspection was scheduled for the week of February 28. In addition, an ACRS Subcommittee meeting was scheduled for February 24, and a Full Committee was scheduled for March 3.

Duke noted that the next management meeting was tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2000. As discussed above the staff did not expect that BGE would be participating in that meeting. Duke stated that because the applications for Hatch and Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 1 would be expected to be submitted by the next management meeting it would check with the respective utilities about participating in the management meeting.

The staff and Duke then discussed issues identified late in the license renewal process. Duke stated that it had two issues in this area. One of the issues involved emergency core cooling system insulation, and one involving the medium-voltage cable issue discussed above. Duke provided answers to these issues in letters dated January 7, 2000, and January 12, 2000. Duke stated that these issues were relatively straight forward and both issues were resolved expeditiously. Duke believes that the generic process for identifying an issue late in the license renewal process needs to be refined because future late-breaking issues may not be able to be

resolved as rapidly. Duke also believed that a distinction should not be drawn regarding how a renewed license is treated versus a regular license.

At the conclusion of the meeting, when the staff asked whether there were any questions or comments from the meeting attendees, Robin Mills from the Maryland Safe Energy Coalition expressed concern about the quickness of the renewal review and potential for vessel embrittlement. Mr. Mills asked why license renewal needed to be pursued now, rather than near the end of the current license term. Mr. Mills also noted that his questions were submitted to the NRC in writing.

Mr. Grimes recalled that Mr. Mills' questions were raised during the environmental review public meetings. Mr. Grimes indicated that the staff had attempted to respond to these questions in the safety evaluation report (SER). In particular, the SER describes the need to establish plant maintenance requirements for long-term energy planning and the program that is relied on to manage vessel embrittlement. Duke representatives described the importance of establishing the license requirements for extended plant operation because of the need to make financial decisions now about replacement power if the nuclear plant licenses can not be extended. The staff noted that, in addition to the programs to manage embrittlement of the reactor vessel a separate safety evaluation for the Calvert Cliffs reactor vessel operating limits for a 60-year term had been issued about three years ago.

A draft of this meeting summary was provided to BGE and Duke to allow them the opportunity to comment prior to the summary being issued.

/RA/

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Docket Nos. 50-317 and 50-318 (BGE)
50-269, 50-270, and 50-287 (Duke)

Enclosures: 1. List of Attendees
2. Meeting Slides

cc w/ encls: See next page

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DOCUMENT NAME: C:\1-18-00 BGE-DUKE MTG SUM.wpd

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DATE	1/21/00	02/02/00	02/03/00

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NRC MEETING WITH BGE AND DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION TO DISCUSS THE
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS FOR CALVERT CLIFFS AND OCONEE
ATTENDANCE LIST
JANUARY 18, 2000

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Enclosure 1

Meeting Slides

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