

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406
Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov

No. 99-85

October 1, 1999

**NRC APPROVES TRANSFER OF DUQUESNE LIGHT CO.'S PARTIAL OWNERSHIP
IN BEAVER VALLEY AND PERRY NUCLEAR PLANTS TO FIRSTENERGY**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the transfer of Duquesne Light Co.'s partial ownership and operating authority for the Beaver Valley nuclear power plant to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co. The NRC has also approved the transfer of Duquesne Light's partial ownership of the Perry nuclear power plant to FirstEnergy Nuclear.

Beaver Valley is located in Shippingport, Pa., while Perry is in Perry, Ohio.

In May, Duquesne Light and FirstEnergy, based in Akron, Ohio, jointly submitted an application to the NRC requesting approval for the transfers. An asset transfer agreement between the two companies calls for FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., to assume operating authority for Beaver Valley. Under the proposal, Pennsylvania Power Co. will take control of Duquesne Light's 47.5-percent ownership in Beaver Valley Unit 1 and its 13.74-percent ownership in Beaver Valley Unit 2. Also under the proposal, Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. will take control of Duquesne Light's 13.74-percent ownership of the Perry plant.

As a result of the asset transfer, FirstEnergy Corp. subsidiaries will have 100-percent ownership of both Beaver Valley and Perry.

Local 29 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents unionized employees at Beaver Valley, filed a petition to intervene in the license transfer approval process in June. On July 23, the Commission denied the union local's petition, but it referred Local 29's comments to NRC staff for consideration during review of the application.

Subsequently, on September 15, Local 29 filed a petition asking for a waiver of the time limits to submit comments on the application. The Commission on September 24 granted a waiver of the time limits and referred the union local's comments to the

NRC staff for consideration.

Following a review of all the information before it, the NRC determined that FirstEnergy is qualified to hold the licenses and that the license transfers are consistent with agency regulations.

FirstEnergy also operates the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant in Ohio.

#