

July 17, 2000

Mr. L. W. Myers
Senior Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4, BV-A
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
PROPOSED MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK
REANALYSIS

Dear Mr. Myers:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research has begun a program to re-quantify the risk due to Pressurized Thermal Shock (PTS) events at operating pressurized-water reactors. The program will use information obtained from Beaver Valley Power Station, as well as other utilities, and previous PTS analyses as the basis to determine if the current PTS rule (Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 61) has considerable conservatism and can be relaxed without adversely affecting public health and safety.

During a joint industry/NRC meeting, which was held in Washington, DC, during the first week of February 2000, your staff expressed an interest in participating in the NRC effort. At that time, we explained that, in addition to obtaining certain documents (e.g., emergency operating procedures), it would be desirable to have a meeting at the Beaver Valley site for closer interactions with the plant staff. Your staff has agreed to a meeting scheduled for July 25-27, 2000. This meeting will be open for interested members of the public to observe. The enclosed agenda is proposed for this meeting.

Following the July 2000 meeting at Beaver Valley, the NRC and its contractors will perform preliminary analyses. Based on the outcome, we may request that a second meeting be held at Beaver Valley to obtain additional input or clarification and resolve any remaining issues. We expect to have six to eight participants from the NRC and its contractors for the meetings.

L. W. Myers

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We appreciate your participation in this important project. With your involvement, and that of other utilities, the NRC will be able to produce well-informed, defensible analyses of PTS issues. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1427.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel S. Collins, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION 1 & 2
PROPOSED AGENDA FOR PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK (PTS) MEETING

July 25, 2000 (*Day 1*):

8:00-8:45a.m. Introduction/Overview presentation
Introduction of attendees (by both Beaver Valley and NRC)
Purpose/goals of meeting by NRC
Schedule of NRC PTS program
NRC Program status
Views on the PTS issue by Beaver Valley

Suggested Participants: NRC, NRC contractors, Beaver Valley management, and Beaver Valley technical staff participants (i.e., Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA)/Human Reliability Analysis (HRA) specialists, thermal hydraulic specialists, and representatives from training/simulator and operations staffs)

8:45-9:30 Initiating Events / Sequences Overview presentation by NRC Contractors
Review of relevant initiators as well as those tentatively screened out
Overview of event tree /fault tree modeling and sequences screened as unimportant

Suggested Participants: NRC, NRC contractors, Beaver Valley technical staff

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45-10:45 Presentation on ATHEANA HRA process
Overview including the emphasis on “context”
Inclusion of errors of commission
The step-by-step process
Integrating recovery actions

Suggested Participants: NRC, NRC contractors, Beaver Valley HRA/PRA specialists and representatives from training/simulator and operations staffs (note: we feel that attendance by representatives from training and operator staffs is very important since we want the HRA to reflect real operational viewpoints)

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-Noon Discussions with training and operations staff regarding procedures and simulator exercises planned for the afternoon (see below). The nature of the simulator exercises would be discussed prior to the meeting. While PTS related scenarios would be preferred, we will rely on the training staff to guide us in terms of what is possible and reasonable.

Enclosure

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION 1 & 2
PROPOSED AGENDA FOR PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK MEETING

July 25, 2000 (*Day 1 - Cont'd*):

Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- 1) Tour of the simulator to review PTS relevant controls/indications etc.

- 2) Observation of operating crew during PTS relevant simulator exercises to be arranged prior to meeting. (Note: We can be flexible regarding when the observation of simulator exercises occurs.) We have found that an understanding of a typical crew's dynamics and the way they interact, helps us in producing a more realistic HRA. The goal is not to praise, criticize, test, or interact in any way with the exercises - simply to observe.

- 3) Technical working sessions (separately if desired) involving the systems and sequence analysis, thermal hydraulic, and training/operations/HRA areas
 Note: with regard to the HRA, we believe it is important to have frank discussions with training and operations representatives to better understand both the straightforward responses as well as possible difficulties and recovery actions associated with identifying and dealing with the onset of PTS conditions. We plan to do this using the ATHEANA process and discussing with Beaver Valley staff the different types of scenarios (and variations on those scenarios) that might lead to PTS conditions and the related operator actions, potential difficulties, and recovery actions.

In general, we will be covering:

- Information needs or questions we still have (e.g., this would be the time to discuss any recent plant changes that we may not be aware of)
- Review and discussion about the modeling and analyses to date
- Utility input and assistance on work currently in progress (especially in HRA)

Suggested Participants: NRC, NRC contractors, Beaver Valley technical staff for these areas (again, for HRA, we feel training/operations input is critical)

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION 1 & 2
PROPOSED AGENDA FOR PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK MEETING

July 26, 2000 (*Day 2*):

Morning Continue the technical working sessions involving the systems and sequence analysis, thermal hydraulic, and training/operations/HRA areas

Lunch

Afternoon 1) Continue the technical working sessions involving the systems and sequence analysis, thermal hydraulic, and training/operations/HRA areas
 2) Summary of progress, additional information requests, plans for going forward

July 27, 2000 (*Day 3*):

We would like to have several of the HRA team members remain at the plant and work on the HRA analysis. They will need to review what they have learned and may need to ask additional questions of plant training and operations staff. Thus, we would like to have a meeting room and the ability to request one or two short question/answer sessions with plant staff.

Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2

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