

Docket No. 50-334

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Mr. J. J. Carey
Vice President
Duquesne Light Company
Nuclear Division
P. O. Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Dear Mr. Carey:

SUBJECT: SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii), REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM HIGH POINT VENTS--BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 1

On December 2, 1981, the Commission issued the final rule on hydrogen control (48 FR 58484). Included in this rule is the requirement to provide reactor coolant system high point vents by the end of the first scheduled outage of sufficient duration beginning after July 1, 1982.

By letter dated August 25, 1983, you requested an exemption to the schedular requirement of the subject rule. You indicated that installation of the high point vent system is complete, and procedures for operation of the system have been submitted by letter dated December 7, 1982. The reasons for the requested schedular exemption are (1) not having NRC authorization for use of the system, and (2) the solenoid-operated vent valves installed have demonstrated an operational anomaly which requires resolution prior to declaring the system ready for operation.

The previous requirements concerning high point vents of NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements", have been superseded by the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii). Therefore, preimplementation review and approval by the NRC staff is not required and an exemption request based on the lack of staff approval is invalid. However, the Commission has granted a schedular exemption based on the second reason above. This Exemption changes the implementation date from startup of Cycle 4 to startup of Cycle 5 for Beaver Valley Unit 1.

We understand from your submittal that the RCS gas vent system has been completely installed and hydrostatically tested. It is also our understanding that manual valves upstream of the vent valves are presently closed to prevent inadvertent operation of this system.

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Mr. J. J. Carey

- 2 -

A copy of this Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

*See other white for concurrence

ORB#1:DL*
CParrish
1/3/84

ORB#1:DL
PTam; *EST*
1/9/84

ORB#1:DL-C
SVarga
1/9/84

AD:OR:DL*
GLainas
1/4/84

OELD*
WShields
1/5/83

D:DL
DEisenhut
1/ /84

See exemption signature
Signed Exemption
on 1/12/84



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Docket No. 50-334

Mr. J. J. Carey, Vice President
Duquesne Light Company
Nuclear Division
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Dear Mr. Carey:

Subject: Scheduler Exemption from 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii), Reactor Coolant
System High Point Vents--Beaver Valley Unit 1

On December 2, 1981, the Commission issued the final rule on hydrogen control (46 FR 58484). Included in this rule is the requirement to provide reactor coolant system high point vents by the end of the first scheduled outage of sufficient duration beginning after July 1, 1982.

By letter dated August 25, 1983, you requested an exemption to the scheduler requirement of the subject rule. You indicated that installation of the high point vent system is complete, and procedures for operation of the system have been submitted by letter dated December 7, 1982. The reasons for the requested scheduler exemption are (1) not having NRC authorization for use of the system, and (2) the solenoid-operated vent valves installed have demonstrated an operational anomaly which requires resolution prior to declaring the system ready for operation.

The staff has approved your high point vent system as designed (Letter, S. A. Varga of NRC to J. J. Carey of Duquesne Light Co., dated September 8, 1983), subject to resolution of certain items. As to your request for scheduler exemption, the Commission has granted your request as described in the enclosed Exemption. This Exemption changes the implementation date from startup of Cycle 4 to startup of Cycle 5 for Beaver Valley Unit 1. Cycle 5 startup would take place in early 1985.

A copy of this Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

Concurrence

ORB #: DL

KParrish
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 12, 1984

Docket No. 50-334

Mr. J. J. Carey
Vice President
Duquesne Light Company
Nuclear Division
P. O. Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Dear Mr. Carey:

SUBJECT: SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii), REACTOR COOLANT
SYSTEM HIGH POINT VENTS--BEAVER VALLEY UNIT 1

On December 2, 1981, the Commission issued the final rule on hydrogen control (48 FR 58484). Included in this rule is the requirement to provide reactor coolant system high point vents by the end of the first scheduled outage of sufficient duration beginning after July 1, 1982.

By letter dated August 25, 1983, you requested an exemption to the schedular requirement of the subject rule. You indicated that installation of the high point vent system is complete, and procedures for operation of the system have been submitted by letter dated December 7, 1982. The reasons for the requested schedular exemption are (1) not having NRC authorization for use of the system, and (2) the solenoid-operated vent valves installed have demonstrated an operational anomaly which requires resolution prior to declaring the system ready for operation.

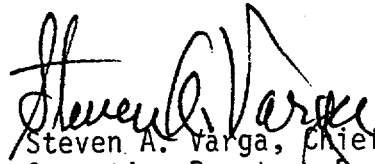
The previous requirements concerning high point vents of NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements", have been superseded by the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii). Therefore, preimplementation review and approval by the NRC staff is not required and an exemption request based on the lack of staff approval is invalid. However, the Commission has granted a schedular exemption based on the second reason above. This Exemption changes the implementation date from startup of Cycle 4 to startup of Cycle 5 for Beaver Valley Unit 1.

We understand from your submittal that the RCS gas vent system has been completely installed and hydrostatically tested. It is also our understanding that manual valves upstream of the vent valves are presently closed to prevent inadvertent operation of this system.

Mr. J. J. Carey

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A copy of this Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.


Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

Mr. J. J. Carey
Duquesne Light Company

Beaver Valley Power Station
Unit 1

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Beaver Valley Power Station
Unit 1

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Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

Docket No. 50-334

DEQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY
OHIO EDISON COMPANY
PENNSYLVANIA POWER COMPANY

(Beaver Valley Power Station
Unit No. 1)

EXEMPTION

I.

The Duquesne Light Company (DLC), Ohio Edison Company, and Pennsylvania Power Company (the licensees), are the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-66 (the licensee) which authorizes operation of the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1. The license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission now and hereafter in effect.

The facility comprises a pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site located at Beaver County, Pennsylvania.

II.

On December 2, 1981 the Commission issued the final rule (10 CFR 50.44) on combustible gas control (46 FR 58484). The rule requires licensees of each light-water reactor to provide, by the end of the first scheduled outage beginning after July 1, 1982, improved operational capability to maintain

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adequate core cooling following an accident. Specifically, high point vents are required for the reactor coolant system, for the reactor vessel head, and for other systems required to maintain adequate core cooling if the accumulation of noncondensable gases would cause the loss of function of these systems.

By letter dated August 25, 1983, Duquesne Light Company requested exemption to the schedular requirement of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) and proposed that the operability date of the reactor coolant vent system be changed from the end of the third refueling outage to the end of the fourth refueling outage. Contrary to what the rule requires, the fourth refueling outage is not the first, but the second "outage of sufficient duration after July 1, 1982." Two reasons were provided by DLC to support the request: (1) not having NRC authorization for use of the system, and (2) the solenoid-operated vent valves already installed in the system have demonstrated an operational anomaly which requires resolution prior to declaring the system operational. The system has been fully installed by DLC. However, pre-implementation review and approval by the staff is not required by the regulation and an exemption request based on the lack of staff approval is thus invalid.

III.

The second reason for the request is that the recently installed solenoid-operated valves which activate the vent system have demonstrated an

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operational anomaly which could lead to a common-mode failure. The licensee advises that these valves are currently unacceptable for operation, and that the RCS high point vent system will be isolated (using manually operated isolation valves) and de-energized during power operation over the present fuel cycle (Cycle 4). In addition, the licensee has initiated efforts to resolve the problem, and estimates that the problem can be resolved by the end of the next refueling outage.

The staff's review of the facility shows that Beaver Valley has three power-operated relief valves (PORVs), mounted on top of the pressurizer, which could be used to vent the pressurizer as well as the remainder of the RCS on a more extended time basis, in the event such an emergency occurs. The staff notes that the vent system required by the regulation have been fully installed and hydrostatically tested, and could be made operational except with the anomaly as described. Therefore, on the basis that a good-faith effort has been demonstrated by the licensee to comply with the regulation, and that a compensatory measure is available, the staff concludes that the facility can be operated with a non-operable RCS high-point vent system until start-up from the fourth refueling outage (presently scheduled for December, 1984) without a significant impact on public health and safety.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, an exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or

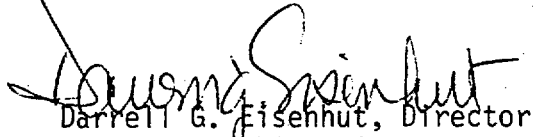
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property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest and hereby grants the following exemption with respect to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii):

The operability date of the reactor coolant high point vent system be extended to the end of the fourth refueling outage.

The NRC staff has determined that the granting of this Exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 12th day of January 1984