

September 6, 1983

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Docket No. 50-334

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

Dear Mr. Carey:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 70 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-66 for the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your application transmitted by letter dated November 23, 1982, amended by letter dated December 15, 1982 and supplemented by letters dated February 23 and April 18, 1983.

The amendment changes the Technical Specifications to allow plant operation with two Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) and one Reactor Operator (RO) per shift, instead of the present requirements of two SROs and two ROs. This change is temporary; when the rule on shift staffing is implemented on January 1, 1984, the Technical Specifications will have to be changed to conform with the rule.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next regular monthly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Tam, Project Manager
Operating Reactors Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 70 to DPR-66
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

*Immediately before issuing
Check for Petitions and comments
If any come back to ELD.*

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DATE	8/24/83	7/25/83	8/25/83	8/25/83	8/31/83	9/1/83	

Mr. J. J. Carey
Duquesne Light Company

cc: Mr. W. S. Lacey
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Mr. J. J. Carey
Duquesne Light Company

cc: Regional Radiation Representatives
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Governor's Office of State Planning
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
September 6, 1983

DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

OHIO EDISON COMPANY

PENNSYLVANIA POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-334

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No.70
License No. DPR-66

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Duquesne Light Company, Ohio Edison Company, and Pennsylvania Power Company (the licensees) dated November 23, 1982, as amended by letter dated December 15, 1982 and supplemented by letters dated February 23 and April 18, 1983, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public;
and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

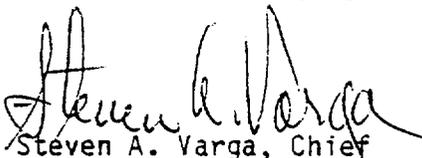
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-66 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 70, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


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

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: September 6, 1983

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT NO. 70 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-66

DOCKET NO. 50-334

Revise Appendix A as follows:

Remove Page

6-4

Insert Page

6-4

TABLE 6.2-1

MINIMUM SHIFT CREW COMPOSITION#SINGLE UNIT FACILITY

LICENSE CATEGORY QUALIFICATIONS	APPLICABLE MODES	
	1, 2, 3 and 4	5 and 6
SRO*	2	1**
RO	2##	1
Non-Licensed Auxiliary Operator	2	1
Shift Technical Advisor	1	None Required

* Includes the licensed Senior Reactor Operator serving as the Shift Supervisor.

** Does not include the licensed Senior Reactor Operator or Senior Reactor Operator Limited to Fuel Handling, supervising CORE OPERATIONS.

Shift crew composition may be one less than the minimum requirements for a period of time not to exceed 2 hours in order to accommodate unexpected absence of on-duty shift crew members provided immediate action is taken to restore the shift crew composition to within the minimum requirements of Table 6.2-1. This provision does not permit any shift crew position to be unmanned upon shift change due to an oncoming shift crewman being late or absent.

Prior to December 1, 1983, 1 (one) Reactor Operator may fulfill this requirement if necessary in order to fully comply with the restrictions on work hours as specified by the NRC Policy on overtime.



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

September 6, 1983

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 70 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-66

DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

OHIO EDISON COMPANY

PENNSYLVANIA POWER COMPANY

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-334

By letter dated November 23, 1982 (amended by letter dated December 15, 1982), the licensee requested a change to the Beaver Valley Unit 1 Technical Specifications which would allow operation of the unit with two SROs and one RO on shift, in lieu of the existing requirement for two SROs and two ROs on shift. The request was prompted by a present shortage of licensed operators at the facility, which is expected to continue through most of 1983.

The original Technical Specifications for Beaver Valley Unit 1 required one SRO and two ROs on shift during plant operation. However, in response to the staffing guidance of NUREG-0737, the licensee amended the Technical Specifications (Amendment 39, February 11, 1981) to require two SROs and two ROs on shift. Since issuance of Amendment 39, the licensee has experienced abnormally high losses of licensed operators such that the present plant staff includes only nine ROs and ten SROs available for shift work. This limited number of operators does not allow for full shift coverage, while still providing for operator requalification training and absences due to sickness, vacation, etc., without extensive use of overtime. Decreasing the number of ROs required on shift from two to one would decrease the overtime requirements.

At the present time, the staffing levels of NUREG-0737 are for guidance only.

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However, a staffing rule is now being issued which will codify the NUREG-0737 staffing levels as a requirement. The effective date of the rule is January 1, 1984. Until the rule becomes effective, a licensee may continue to operate with the existing licensed operator staff, as required by the Technical Specifications.

The licensee now has six classes of operator trainees in progress, five for potential new Beaver Valley operators, and one special class to provide the operators from the Shippingport plant with the requisite skills and knowledge of operating a commercial nuclear plant. A total of 58 RO candidates and 67 SRO candidates are in training, but significant output from this training program is not expected until late-1983. The licensee also has modified the pay policy for licensed operators which seems to have stopped the abnormally high attrition rate experienced since February 1980 (18 licensed operators left the company during this period, but only one since the new pay policy went into effect).

The licensee has used four licensed operators on each shift since Beaver Valley Unit 1 began operation, although the Technical Specifications required only three licensed operators (one SRO and two ROs). The licensee has required a shift supervisor (SRO), a shift foreman (SRO), a control operator (RO), and a plant operator (RO). Either the shift foreman or the shift supervisor has been required to be in the control room at all times. The plant operator has taken care of activities in the control room not involved with reactivity control, e.g., logs, readings, auxiliary equipment start-up and surveillance testing. There is no NRC requirement that the individual handling these plant operator duties be licensed.

If the requested Technical Specification change is granted, the licensee proposes to use an experienced auxiliary operator to fill the plant operator position on those occasions when there were only three licensed personnel available on shift. The normal operating mode still would be with four licensed operators. When an auxiliary operator is used in the plant operator position, an additional auxiliary operator would be assigned to the shift, thus maintaining the same total number of licensed and unlicensed operators.

The licensee's proposal was discussed during a meeting at the Beaver Valley Power Station on February 15, 1983. During the meeting, the licensee agreed to conduct some trial shift operations with the licensed plant operator standing aside while his duties were performed by an auxiliary operator. By letter dated April 18, 1983, the licensee reported the successful conduct of these trials. The non-licensed operators, after some experience, were able to satisfactorily perform their limited duties under the supervision of licensed personnel. The licensee now has one non-licensed operator per shift trained to perform the routine peripheral control room duties of the normally licensed plant operator.

Granting this Technical Specification change request would allow Beaver Valley Unit 1 to revert to the previous requirement to have three licensed operators on shift. However, two of three operators would now be SRO qualified instead of one of the three operators as existed prior to issuance of Amendment 39. Further, granting this change would place Beaver Valley in the same status as other single-unit facilities that still are operating with a requirement for only three licensed operators per shift.

We conclude that since there is now no rule that a licensee have four licensed operators per shift, since other licensees are still operating with only three licensed operators per shift, and since the requested change will allow this licensee to avoid much of the overtime that has been required in the recent past, this change request should be granted.

The net effect of this change will be to reduce the total number of licensed operators available on shift which will have some deleterious, but unquantifiable, effect on plant safety. However, it will also allow the licensee to staff each shift with personnel who have not been working extensive overtime. Thus, while a shift may have one less licensed reactor operator assigned, the three operators that are assigned should be more

rested and mentally alert and better able to cope with off-normal events as they occur. The fourth, normally licensed position will be filled by an experienced auxiliary operator who has been trained to conduct limited control room duties not involving reactivity manipulation under the supervision of a licensed operator.

Based on the above, we have concluded that the requested Technical Specification change may be approved without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to CFR §51.5(d)(4), that an environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: September 6, 1983

Principal Contributor:

L. Crocker