

January 5, 1995

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Mr. J. E. Cross
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Power Division

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Duquesne Light Company
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 65 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-73, BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2, IN RESPONSE TO CHANGE REQUEST NO. 79, INFRARED AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY (TAC NO. M89434)

Dear Mr. Cross:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 65 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-73 for the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2. The amendment consists of a change to Appendix B in response to your application dated February 16, 1994.

This amendment deletes the Appendix B Section 4.2.2 requirement to perform infrared aerial photography every other year.

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

Sincerely,
Original signed by:
Gordon E. Edison, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-412

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 65 to NPF-73
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

DOCUMENT NAME: A:\BV289434.AMD

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J. E. Cross
Duquesne Light Company

Beaver Valley Power Station
Units 1 & 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY

OHIO EDISON COMPANY

THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY

THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-412

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 65
License No. NPF-73

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Duquesne Light Company, et al. (the licensee) dated February 16, 1994, 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.

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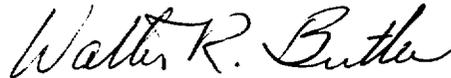
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-73 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 65, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto are hereby incorporated in the license. DLCO shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance, to be implemented within 60 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Walter R. Butler, Director
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: January 5, 1995

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 65

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-73

DOCKET NO. 50-412

Replace the following page of the Appendix B Technical Specifications with the enclosed page as indicated. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

3

Insert

3

No routine monitoring programs are required to implement this condition.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring

4.2.1 Aquatic Monitoring

The certifications and permits required under the Clean Water Act provide mechanisms for protecting water quality and, indirectly, aquatic biota. The NRC will rely on the decisions made by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the authority of the Clean Water Act for any requirements for aquatic monitoring.

4.2.2 Terrestrial Monitoring

DELETED.

4.2.3 Noise Monitoring

Noise monitoring program during first year of plant operation (Section 5.14.4 of FES).

5.0 Administrative Procedures

5.1 Review and Audit

The licensee shall provide for review and audit of compliance with the EPP. The audits shall be conducted independently of the individual or groups responsible for performing the specific activity. A description of the organization structure used to achieve the independent review and audit function and results of the audit activities shall be maintained and made available for inspection.

5.2 Records Retention

Records and logs relative to the environmental aspects of station operation shall be made and retained in a manner convenient for review and inspection. These records and logs shall be made available to NRC on request.

Records of modifications to station structures, systems and components determined to potentially affect the continued protection of the environment shall be retained for the life of the station. All other records, data and logs relating to this EPP shall be retained for five years or, where applicable, in accordance with the requirements of other agencies.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 65 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-73

DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY
OHIO EDISON COMPANY
THE CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY
THE TOLEDO EDISON COMPANY

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-412

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated February 16, 1994, the Duquesne Light Company (the licensee) requested an amendment to Appendix B to Facility Operating License No. NPF-73, Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 2 Environmental Protection Plan (Nonradiological), hereinafter referred to as BV-2 Appendix B Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed amendment would delete the requirement to perform biennial infrared aerial photography of the area surrounding the Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) as stated in Section 4.2.2 of Appendix B.

2.0 EVALUATION

Section 4.2.2 of BV-2 Appendix B TS requires the licensee to perform biennial infrared aerial photography of the area surrounding the BVPS to ascertain if any vegetative stress has occurred that could be attributed to salt drift from the cooling towers. In response to this requirement, the licensee photographs an area of 50 square miles centered on the cooling towers using aerial color infrared film. Field surveys and observations are then conducted in areas where photographs indicate stressed vegetation, to determine the cause, severity, and extent of the stress.

On June 24, 1985, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved a request to eliminate the requirement to perform biennial infrared aerial photography from Appendix B to Facility Operating License No. DPR-66 Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 1 Environmental Protection Plan (Nonradiological). The NRC staff justified this change based on a review of past data from infrared aerial photography that showed no vegetative stress attributable to cooling tower drift. The data used by the NRC staff as a basis for issuing this amendment reflected operation of only Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 1 (BV-1), since Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 2 (BV-2) did not begin operation until 1987.

In evaluating the licensee's amendment request, the NRC staff examined: (1) the proposed Operating License Change Request No. 79, transmitted by letter dated February 16, 1994; (2) the licensee's 1992 Terrestrial Monitoring Program, reported in the 1992 Annual Environmental Report - Nonradiological;

(3) the gross wind roses for the Beaver Valley site shown in the Beaver Valley Power Station - Unit 1 Updated Final Safety Evaluation Report, Revision 11; (4) infrared aerial photographs taken in 1992; (5) the NRC's safety evaluation (SE) attached to Amendment No. 93 to the operating license for BV-1, issued June 24, 1985, and referenced licensee correspondence associated with the deletion of the requirement to perform biennial infrared aerial photography; (6) pertinent sections of NUREG-1094, "Final Environmental Statement related to the Operation of Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2," (BV-2 FES) dated September 1985; and (7) pertinent sections of the "Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2 Environmental Report - Operating License Stage," dated August 1983.

Infrared aerial photography was specified in the BV-2 FES as an appropriate method to monitor the environment for signs of injury as a result of salt drift from cooling towers. As required in BV-2 Appendix B TSs, terrestrial monitoring by aerial photography followed by ground-truthing was performed in 1986, 1988, 1990, and 1992. The results were presented in the Terrestrial Monitoring Program portion of the Annual Environmental Reports - Nonradiological for those years. All reports identified vegetative stress within the 50 square miles surrounding the Beaver Valley site; however, none could be attributed to salt drift from the cooling towers. The results of the field surveys indicated that the vegetative stress was due to a variety of causes, including insect infestation, disease, wild fire, logging, and erosion.

The data collected from 1986 to 1992 reflects operation of two units. As discussed in the SE for Amendment No. 93 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-66 Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 1 Environmental Protection Plan (Nonradiological), results of terrestrial monitoring presented in the Annual Environmental Reports - Nonradiological for 1976, 1978, 1983, and 1984 also indicate there is no evidence to suggest that vegetative stress is caused by cooling tower operation. Therefore, the staff finds that sufficient monitoring has been performed to establish a reliable data history to demonstrate that operation of the cooling towers has no detectable detrimental effect on the surrounding vegetation.

The NRC staff notes that the objectives for protection of the environment as stated in Section 1.0 of BV-2 Appendix B TS remain in effect, specifically that the licensee: (1) verify that the facility is operated in an environmentally acceptable manner; (2) coordinate NRC requirements with other Federal, State, and local requirements for environmental protection; and (3) keep NRC informed of the environmental effects of facility construction and operation and of actions taken to control those effects.

The proposed amendment does not affect the safety of the plant, the operation of the cooling towers, or the cooling tower environmental evaluations or accident analyses described in the Beaver Valley Power Station - Unit 2 Updated Final Safety Evaluation Report, Revision 6.

The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed changes and based on the above discussion can find no evidence that cooling tower operation is causing vegetative stress. Thus, the NRC staff concludes that there will be no detrimental environmental or safety impact resulting from deleting the requirement to perform biennial infrared aerial photography from BV-2 Appendix B TSs, and the staff finds the proposed amendment to be acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Pennsylvania State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment eliminates the surveillance requirement to perform infrared aerial photography every other year to identify vegetative stress caused by salt drift from the operation of the cooling towers. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (59 FR 34663). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has 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, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: R. Nease

Date: January 5, 1995