

March 22, 2001

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

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - PROPOSED MEETING TO
DISCUSS PROMATEC HEMYC 1-HOUR AND MT 3-HOUR FIRE BARRIER
SYSTEMS (TAC NO. MB1311)

Dear Mr. Myers:

During a November 1999 fire protection inspection at Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP), NRC Region II inspectors identified a potential issue associated with Promatec Hemyc 1-hour and MT 3-hour fire barrier systems not being qualified to meet Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements. In a November 23, 1999, Task Interface Agreement (TIA 99-028, ADAMS Accession No. ML003671052), Region II requested the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's (NRR's) assistance to resolve this issue. In its August 1, 2000, response to TIA 99-028 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003736721), the NRR staff concluded that the fire rating of the installed fire wrap at HNP was indeterminate.

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) confirmed that the plants listed below use Hemyc or MT fire wrap to comply with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements.

Arkansas Nuclear One Units 1 and 2	Beaver Valley Unit 1
Catawba Units 1 and 2	FitzPatrick
GINNA	Harris
Indian Point Units 2 and 3	McGuire Units 1 and 2
Robinson 2	Vermont Yankee
Waterford	

NRR staff had requested that NEI coordinate a generic industry initiative to address the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue, but NEI declined. Therefore, the staff will be working with the affected licensees to resolve this issue. The staff's planned course of action includes meeting with the affected licensees as a group to discuss: (1) the technical issues, (2) the applicability of the issues to the affected plants, and (3) the ultimate resolution of the issue. We are requesting that the affected licensees take the issue on as a voluntary initiative and propose an approach for resolving the issue.

L. Meyers

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In the near future, the NRC Lead Project Manager for this issue, Richard Laufer, or I will contact you and the other affected licensees to arrange a joint meeting to discuss the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue. Allowing time for licensees to review and consider the results from the HNP review (TIA 99-028), we estimate that the meeting will take place in the May - June 2001 timeframe.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence J. Burkhart, Project Manager, Section I
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

cc: See next page

Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2

Mary O'Reilly, Attorney
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
FirstEnergy Corporation
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Licensing Section
Thomas S. Cosgrove, Manager (2 Copies)
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4, BV-A
Shippingport, PA 15077

Commissioner Roy M. Smith
West Virginia Department of Labor
Building 3, Room 319
Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

Director, Utilities Department
Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0573

Director, Pennsylvania Emergency
Management Agency
2605 Interstate Dr.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9364

Ohio EPA-DERR
ATTN: Zack A. Clayton
Post Office Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43266-0149

Dr. Judith Johnsrud
National Energy Committee
Sierra Club
433 Orlando Avenue
State College, PA 16803

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

L. W. Pearce, Plant Manager (BV-SOSB-7)
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Bureau of Radiation Protection
ATTN: Larry Ryan
P O Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mayor of the Borough of
Shippingport
P O Box 3
Shippingport, PA 15077

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Post Office Box 298
Shippingport, PA 15077

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
ATTN: M. P. Pearson, Director Plant
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

Mr. J. A. Hultz, Manager
Projects & Support Services
FirstEnergy Corporation
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Mr. B. F. Sepelak
Post Office Box 4, BV-A
Shippingport, PA 15077

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
17761 Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

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*see previous concurrence

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