

November 5, 2002
NPD3NRE:0190

Mr. Edward Litwon
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Southwest Region
400 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745

Reported Oil Spill at Beaver Valley Power Station (NPDES No. PA0025615)

Dear Mr. Litwon:

In accordance with 25 PA Code §245, Administration of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Program, this is provided as a subsequent written report of an oil spill at Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS) on October 30, 2002. The original notification was reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) Southwest Region, by telephone at 1745 hours also on October 30.

At about 1430 hours on October 30, 2002, approximately 75 gallons of No. 2 fuel oil was spilled during the filling of an exempt underground storage tank for an emergency diesel generator at BVPS Unit 2. Please note that the tanks for these emergency diesel generators are excluded from the regulatory definition under 25 PA Code §245.1, Underground Storage Tank, Item (xviii) - relating to general design criteria for nuclear power plants. In the original notification to PA DEP, the estimate of spilled oil was 150 gallons. However, based on volume and void-space calculations, 75 gallons is determined to be the amount spilled.

The delivery vehicle was on the pad designed to capture the entire volume of its contents. However, the oil spilled from the tank fill and vent area. Some oil made its way to the containment pad, most was captured and controlled by the attendants' use of contingency-staged spill mitigation materials, and a small but un-quantified amount of oil went into a stormwater drain.

After isolating flow and securing the area, the attending operator notified the Control Room to initiate actions in accordance with site procedures described in the BVPS Preparedness, Prevention and Contingency Plan (PPC) and the appended Spill Prevention, Control & Countermeasures Plan (SPCC). Under the plans, the Shift Manager assumed the Incident Commander role and called on the BVPS Emergency Squad (HazMat Operations Level trained) to respond. All surface oil was cleaned up, and the Weavertown Environmental Group (WEG) was called in for additional support also in accordance with the spill procedures.

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Plant personnel were also dispatched to the Ohio River to look for evidence of oil. There was no sheen or any other indication of oil actually reaching the river via the stormwater system through NPDES Outfall 011. With support from BVPS personnel, WEG cleaned out the accessible inline catch basins between the spot of the spill and the river. Approximately 260 gallons of water with some oil were removed from the stormwater system from approximately 1730 hours to 2200 hours on October 30. The last basin, CB-20, could not be pumped out at that time. Oil absorbing hydrophobic materials were placed in the basin to collect and secure any remaining oil in the system prior to clean-out.

On October 31, the cleanup and recovery was completed with the removal of the absorbent material from CB-20. It was also pumped out generating another 175 gallons of water with minor evidence of oil.

The cause of the spill is in the general class of human performance. The attending operator failed to perform adequate self-checking during the performance of the tank filling procedure. In accordance with our Corrective Action and Human Performance Improvement Programs, BVPS Condition Report 02-09734 was written. Under this program, the events and procedures will be reviewed and recommendations made to prevent recurrence. This also includes a review of the response procedures. Any subsequently adopted actions intended to prevent or mitigate spills or releases to the environment will be incorporated into BVPS procedures. Updates will also be made to the PPC and SPCC in accordance with the regulations, and the PA DEP guidance document, "Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Environmental Emergency Response Plans."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Banko at 724-682-5874.

Sincerely,



James H. Lash
Plant General Manager

MDB/deg

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555
Re: DPR-66 and NPF-73

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