

May 12, 2004

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

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 - REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) - NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
(NRC) BULLETIN 2003-01, "POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON
EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT PRESSURIZED-WATER
REACTORS" (TAC NOS. MB9554 AND MB9555)

Dear Mr. Pearce:

The NRC staff has reviewed and evaluated the information provided in your August 8, 2003, 60-day response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01, dated June 9, 2003. The NRC staff has determined that the additional information contained in the enclosure to this letter is needed to complete its review. As discussed with your staff, we request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter in order for the NRC staff to complete its scheduled review of your response to Bulletin 2003-01.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

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ACCESSION NO. ML041200785

*Input received. No substantive changes made

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BULLETIN 2003-01, "POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON
EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS"

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (BVPS-1 and 2)

FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-334 AND 50-412

1. The Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) has developed operational guidance in response to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin (BL) 2003-01 for Westinghouse- and CE-type pressurized-water reactors. For BVPS-1 and 2, your response stated that you will monitor the WOG's activities and will consider implementation of any issued guidance. Please provide a discussion of the WOG-recommended compensatory measures that have been or will be implemented for your facilities. Include a discussion of the evaluations or analyses performed to determine that these compensatory measures are acceptable for BVPS-1 and 2, and provide technical justification for those WOG-compensatory measures not being implemented at BVPS-1 and 2. Also, include a detailed discussion of the procedures being modified, the operator training being implemented, and your schedule for implementing these compensatory measures.
2. In your response to BL 2003-01, you stated that guidance is given in emergency operating procedures (EOPs) to address the refueling water storage tank (RWST) refill once it has been determined that a complete loss of emergency coolant recirculation capability exists. The intent of BL 2003-01 is for licensees to consider implementing compensatory measures to reduce the risk associated with potentially degraded or nonconforming emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and containment spray system recirculation functions. As such, the timing of implementing this guidance in your EOPs may not be consistent with the intent of BL 2003-01. For large break sizes, refilling the RWST upon switchover to sump recirculation, or soon thereafter, could provide a ready source of additional make-up inventory should sump recirculation be lost. For smaller break sizes, early initiation of RWST refill, such as prior to sump recirculation, could effectively prolong the time to switchover and possibly increase the opportunity for plant recovery without necessitating switchover, thereby reducing the potential for ECCS recirculation sump blockage. In your response, you did not commit to modifying your EOPs to include refilling the RWST prior to or upon switchover to ECCS recirculation. Given the uncertainty associated with this issue, and the potential benefits of implementing this compensatory measure, please explain the basis for not including refilling the RWST earlier in your procedures.

In addition, please provide a detailed description of how your current EOPs address a loss of ECCS recirculation capability.

ENCLOSURE