

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Region I

Report No. 50-334/80-10

Docket No. 50-334

License No. DPR-66 Priority _____ Category C

Licensee: Duquesne Light Company

435 Sixth Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Facility Name: Beaver Valley Unit No. 1

Investigation at: Shippingport, Pennsylvania

Investigation conducted: April 8-9, 1980

Investigators: Jacques Durr
J. P. Durr, Reactor Inspector

5/1/80
date signed

Samuel D Reynolds
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5/1/80
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Investigation Summary:

Investigation on April 8-9, 1980 (Report No. 50-334/80-10)

Areas Investigated: Unannounced investigation of two allegations concerning weld rod control and work practices of an electrical subcontractor. The investigation involved 20 inspector-hours on site by two NRC Regional investigators.

Results: None of the allegations could be substantiated and no items of noncompliance were identified.

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I Background

Reason for Investigation

The NRC received allegations from an individual during an interview on March 31, 1980, concerning Beaver Valley Unit No. 1. The allexer had been employed by the Sargent Electric Company, who was performing electrical subcontractor work under Schneider, Inc. at Unit No. 1. The allexer felt that Sargent Electric Company was guilty of certain unethical practices.

II Summary of Findings

1. Allegations and Investigative Findings

Based on allegations received from an individual on March 31, 1980, an investigation of construction/maintenance oriented allegations was performed. The allegations and NRC findings are as follows:

Allegation No. 1

The allegeder was required to perform electrical work although he was not an electrician. He saw painters and welders make wiring terminations.

Through interviews and review of quality control/work procedures it was determined that such practices are virtually impossible. It was disclosed that welders, supporting the electrical contractor, are sometimes required to assist electricians in nonskill tasks such as unloading trucks. In addition, the NRC investigator determined that the allegeder only worked on nonsafety-related tasks.

Allegation No. 2

Welding rods were illegally stored in the Sargent fabrication shop.

A search of the fabrication shop, materials trailer, and tool room did not reveal any unauthorized welding materials. Interviews with welders, electricians, supervisors, and the tool room man did not provide any support for the allegation.

2. Conclusions

Allegations No. 1 and 2 could not be substantiated. No items of noncompliance were identified.

III Details

1. Introduction

The alleged was interviewed by members of the NRC Region I Staff on March 31, 1980. He stated that on November 2, 1979, the Boiler Makers Union, No. 154 was requested to supply a certified welder to the Electricians Union, No. 712. He was selected to fill the position of welder, supporting electricians employed by the Sargent Electric Company. Sargent Electric Company was subcontracted to Schneider, Inc. who was doing work for the Duquesne Light Company at Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1.

2. Scope of the Investigation

This investigation focused on the maintenance/construction related work allegations that could potentially impact on the safe operation of the facility.

3. Persons Contacted during the Investigation

- *R. Burski, Senior Compliance Engineer
- *E. Humer, Senior Construction Specialist
- *L. Hutchinson, Station Audit Coordinator
- *E. F. Kurtz, Senior Quality Assurance Engineer
- *F. Lipchick, Compliance Engineer
- J. Werling, Station Superintendent
- *H. Williams, Chief Engineer

Schneider, Inc.

- R. Naggy, Electrical Quality Control Engineer
- J. Rush, Site Quality Assurance Manager

Sargent Electric Company

- A. Demitras, Project Engineer
- W. Kirchel, General Foreman, Construction
- R. Namadam, Sub-Foreman
- B. Wilson, Union Steward

In addition, eleven other employees were interviewed as their job function interfaced with the investigation.

*Denotes those persons present at the exit interview.

4. Allegation No. 1

Allegation

The allegeder was required to perform electrical work although he was not an electrician. He saw non-electrical crafts, such as painters and welders, make electrical terminations and pull wire. This work took place in and around the control room and the cable mezzanine during November-December, 1979.

NPC Investigation

Through a review of the Daily Time and Distribution Sheets for the period November 11 - December 3, 1979, it was established that the work that was performed was DCP-268. This involved the installation of a nonsafety-related, Category III, fire alarm-smoke detector from the Unit No. 2 control room to Unit No. 1. Portions of the work did take place in the Unit No. 1 cable spreading mezzanine.

The procedures for wiring termination of Category I, safety-related work and for quality control require that 100% of all terminations be inspected and that the workman who made the terminations be identified on the inspection record. In this manner, it can be verified that safety-related terminations are only made by qualified electricians. In addition, there are spot surveillance inspections made by the quality control group. The quality control group is a part of Schneider, Inc. and is functionally independent of Sargent Electric Company.

Interviews with union officials and members disclosed that to attain a Journeyman Electrician status, the individual must be an apprentice for four years, pass an examination approximately every six weeks, and a final examination upon completion. When an electrician is hired by Sargent Electric, he is given additional specialized training as it relates to special processes and techniques employed in a nuclear power plant.

Due to the length of training and inherent pride in craftsmanship, a well known but little recognized restraint is imposed on anyone trying to use unqualified electricians on a job such as this. That is the fact that the qualified craftsmen would recognize this practice and take immediate steps to stop it. During the course of the interviews with qualified electricians, whenever it was suggested that such a practice might have been attempted, the response was unanimous and charged with emotion that no one would tolerate such actions.

Lastly, fourteen names were selected from the Sargent Electric work force for formal interviews. Of the fourteen, only seven individuals were immediately available for interview. Included in the names of the interview group were individuals alleged to have first hand knowledge of both allegations No. 1 and 2. All interviewees were selected such that their period of employment would cover the time span of the allegations. The interviewees represented both electricians and welders who supported electricians.

Each interviewee was informed that he could speak with us privately or the interview would be conducted with a supervisor or union official present of his choice. All interviews were conducted with a union representative present at the request of the interviewees.

The following questions were asked of each interviewee:

- 1) Have you seen welding rod being used illegally on nuclear work or private projects at Beaver Valley Unit No. 1?

Responses: Seven "No's"

- 2) Has welding rod been stored illegally in the fabrication shop or any other area under the control of Sargent Electric Company?

Responses: Seven "No's"

- 3) Do you know of any crafts, other than Journeyman Electricians, doing work that would require the skills of a trained electrician?

Responses: Six "No's" and one "Yes". The "Yes" response indicated that a "lineman" electrician was working on panels "downstairs" in the "WRAPS" system. The investigator established that the union, the licensee, and the foreman were aware of this and had no reason to question the practice. In fact, the man had been specifically requested because of his workmanship.

- 4) Have welders, employed to support electricians, been directed to do electricians work such as terminations of wiring?

Responses: Seven "No's"

- 5) Have welders or other crafts been directed to perform tasks such as cable pulling?

Responses: Four "No's" and three "Yes's"

The difference in responses can be explained by the fact that not all electricians have had other crafts assigned to their work groups. In some instances, welders have been assigned to do tasks other than weld when the situation warrants it.

- 6) If the answer to question 5 is "yes", were they under the direct supervision of a Journeyman Electrician?

Responses: Three "Yes's"

- 7) Do you have any information you would like to tell the NRC about questionable work practices at Beaver Valley?

Responses: Seven "No's"

Several interviewees disclosed concerns about the differences in the radiation safety programs implemented at Beaver Valley and Shippingport. They were unable to point out specific deficiencies but sensed a lesser degree of coverage. These concerns were relayed to the licensee's staff and the NRC Region I Radiation Safety group.

One interviewee voiced concern about another nuclear facility and their employment practices. This information will be transmitted to the appropriate authorities.

NRC Finding

This allegation could not be substantiated.

5. Allegation No. 2Allegation

Welding rods were illegally stored in the electrical fabrication shop. These welding rods were used for personal projects.

NRC Investigation

The primary reason the NRC is concerned about welding rods being stored and used illegally is that it would indicate a breakdown in the weld rod control system. This system is designed to provide assurance that the proper welding materials are controlled and used for designated purposes. Uncontrolled welding materials presents an opportunity for incorrect materials to be used for welding materials they may not be compatible with.

The NRC investigator examined the Sargent fabrication shop, the material trailer, and the tool room. No unauthorized welding materials were observed. Where welding materials were noted, the welders had authorization slips documenting the issuance for that day.

The tool room is the normal source of issue for welding materials within the Sargent Company. Issues from the tool room are controlled by the tool room man. There was no evidence to indicate that welding materials were not being controlled.

Formal interviews (reference allegation No. 1) and informal interviews with the workmen in the areas examined do not support the allegation.

NRC Finding

This allegation could not be substantiated.

6. Exit Interview

An exit interview was held with the licensee's representatives (denoted in paragraph 3) at the conclusion of the investigation on April 9, 1980. The investigator summarized the purpose, scope, and findings of the investigation. He relayed the workmen's concerns relating to the noticeable differences in the radiation safety program to the licensee's staff. The licensee acknowledged the investigator's statements.