

FEB 16 1990

Docket No. 50-334
License No. DPR-66

Duquesne Light Company
ATTN: Mr. J. D. Sieber
Vice President, Nuclear Group
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC Region I Special Inspection Report No. 50-334/90-04

The enclosed reports transmit the findings of the January 22-26, 1990, special inspection concerning the operation of a 120 VAC vital instrument bus with its associated uninterruptible power source out of service at Beaver Valley Power Station Unit 1. These findings were discussed with Mr. T. Noonan and members of your staff.

Between January 14 and January 19, 1990, while Unit 1 was operating at full power, a degraded condition existed in that the No. 3 Vital Instrument Bus was energized from an interruptible source. In addition, this degraded condition existed for extended periods of time during previous fuel cycles.

Of more significant concern to us are the broader implications of this event. The NRC is concerned that site management was apparently willing to continue to operate a 120 VAC vital instrument bus in a degraded condition without restrictions despite recommendations to the contrary from your Independent Safety Evaluation group.

Accordingly, we plan to schedule an Enforcement Conference in March, 1990, to discuss this event with you in the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. We will forward an appropriate notification of enforcement action after the Enforcement Conference.

During the Enforcement Conference, please be prepared to address the following:

- Safety significance of the event;
- Root cause evaluations;
- Factors that worsened or mitigated this event;
- Broader implications of this event, and;
- Actions to prevent recurrence.

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Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
WILLIAM F. KANE

William F. Kane, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: NRC Region I Special Inspection Report No. 50-334/90-04

cc w/encl:

J. J. Carey, Executive Vice President, Operations
J. O. Crockett, General Manager, Corporate Nuclear Services
W. S. Lacey, General Manager, Nuclear Operations
N. R. Tonet, Manager, Nuclear Engineering
T. P. Noonan, General Manager, Nuclear Operations
S. C. Fenner, QA Manager
K. D. Grada, Manager, Nuclear Safety
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bcc w/encl:

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