

Duquesne Light Company

Beaver Valley Power Station
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1
Docket No. 50-334, License No. DPR-66
Recirculation Spray Heat Exchanger Leak Testing

As a result of meetings on March 25 and April 22, 1980, Duquesne Light Company (DLC) agreed to perform leak testing of the BVPS-1 Recirculation Spray Heat Exchangers. DLC chose freon leak testing due to the magnitude of the established acceptable leak rate limits (2×10^{-4} GPM) and the ability of the available freon detection equipment to identify a leak this small. The NRC staff subsequently summarized the meeting discussions in a letter to DLC dated May 2, 1980.

In order to avoid the use of freon due to its environmental impact and impending usage restrictions, DLC has initiated the consideration of alternative leak test methodologies. In addition, the freon test method provides "go - no go" results and has proven to be ineffective in locating or quantifying identified leakage.

DLC has carefully researched the calculations associated with the original 2×10^{-4} gpm leak rate criterion and the radiation monitor alarm setpoint. New calculations using the current licensing basis value for river dilution (545 vs. 10 originally) show that projected drinking water doses can be reduced below those reported in the May 2, 1980 letter while accommodating a leak rate of .01 gpm.

A revised leak rate acceptance criterion of .01 gpm permits the use of an alternative air make-up test method since it is within the measurement capability of air make-up test equipment. This method has the additional capability of quantifying actual leak rates and it enhances troubleshooting efforts in locating leaks. This is the same method used for Type C containment leak testing. Future testing will use this, or a comparable test method, along with the revised acceptance criterion.

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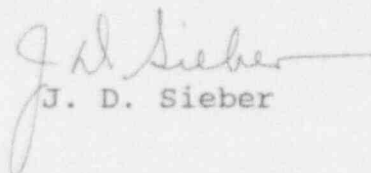
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The change in the acceptance criteria has been evaluated in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 and, therefore, no response to this letter is requested. Any questions related to this change may be directed to Gary Beatty at (412) 393-5225.

Sincerely,


J. D. Sieber

cc: Mr. L. W. Rossbach, Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. T. T. Martin, NRC Region I Administrator
Mr. G. E. Edison, Project Manager
Mr. M. L. Bowling (VEPCO)