

April 9, 1996

Mr. J. E. Cross
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Power Division
Duquesne Light Company
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (EP) COMBINED INSPECTION NOS. 50-334/96-01
AND 50-412/96-01

Dear Mr. Cross:

This letter refers to the NRC-graded, biennial, emergency preparedness exercise inspection conducted by Mr. J. Laughlin and others on February 26-29, 1996, of activities authorized by NRC License Nos. DPR-66 and NPF-73 at the Beaver Valley Power Station, Shippingport, Pennsylvania, and to the discussions of our findings with you and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during this inspection are important to public health and safety, and are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of observations by the inspectors, selective examinations of procedures and representative records, and interviews with personnel.

Overall, the onsite response was good and demonstrated that the emergency response organization was capable of implementing the emergency plan and procedures, and that adequate onsite protective measures can be taken in a radiological emergency. An exercise strength was identified in the prioritization and coordination of repair team activities, however, an exercise weakness was identified in the technical assessment of accident conditions in the Technical Support Center. In this area, one item of particular concern was the apparent lack of understanding by operations and engineering staff of the meaning of full-range reactor vessel level indication system (RVLIS) readings. This parameter is key to alert staff to the possibility of core uncover and damage. Another area of concern identified was the adequacy of control room staffing during the simulated emergency. Please direct your attention to Section 7 of the enclosed inspection report. We will contact your staff in the near future to discuss this matter.

Two previously identified exercise weaknesses were adequately demonstrated and therefore, closed. Additionally, an open item concerning emergency staffing from the last program inspection was closed.

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Mr. J. E. Cross

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No reply to this letter is required. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard R. Keimig, Chief
Emergency Preparedness
and Safeguards Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-334
50-412
Licenses: DPR-66, NPF-73

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-334/96-01 and 50-412/96-01 with Attachment

cc w/encl:

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