

DOCKET NUMBER 50  
PROPOSED RULE (57FR 15034)

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**Duquesne Light Company**

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DOCKETED  
USNRC

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Vice President - Nuclear Group

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555  
Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Subject: Proposed Rule, "Receipt of Byproduct and Special Nuclear Material" 57FR15034

Gentlemen:

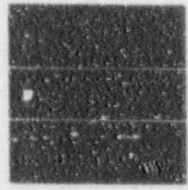
Duquesne Light Company (DLC) would like to submit these comments for consideration in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposal to amend 10 CFR Part 50, "Receipt of Byproduct and Special Nuclear Material," as published in the Federal Register on April 24, 1992 (57FR15034). The NRC is proposing to amend its regulations governing the conditions of licenses for production and utilization facilities to allow a reactor licensee to receive back byproduct and special nuclear material that is produced by operating the reactor after that waste has been sent offsite to be reduced in volume by compaction or incineration.

Beaver Valley Power Station (BVPS), like most reactor licensees, utilize offsite vendors for volume reduction services. At present, the vendors treat the waste (e.g., incineration or compaction) and ship the volume reduced waste directly to the low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) disposal facilities. Effective January 1, 1993, or anytime thereafter, the industry may be denied access to the existing LLRW disposal facilities. In this case, we would be required by law to take back the volume-reduced portion of the waste. However, we would not be permitted to receive back the waste under the conditions of the BVPS operating licenses.

The proposed minor amendment would allow operating reactor licensees to continue with already significant efforts to reduce LLRW, maximize the use of existing storage facilities, and minimize the need to develop new facilities with no adverse effect on the public health and safety. Amending Section 50.54 would provide the requisite authorization, eliminate the need to expend the significant NRC and licensee resources required to review multiple Part 50 license amendment applications and Part 30 license requests, and avoid duplication of effort associated with reviewing such requests on a case-by-case basis.

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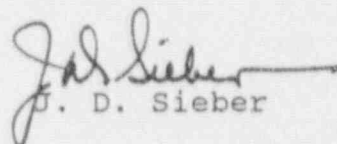
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The Edison Electric Institute Utility Nuclear Waste and  
Transportation Program (EEI/UWASTE) has prepared comments which  
strongly endorse the proposed rule. As a member of EEI/UWASTE, DLC  
concurs with their comments on the proposed change to 10 CFR 50.54.  
We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed rule  
and urge the NRC to promptly adopt the proposed rule as published.

Sincerely,

  
J. D. Sieber