



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

December 30, 1992

Docket
File

Docket No. 50-334
Serial No. BV-92-044

Mr. J. D. Sieber, Vice President
Nuclear Group
Duquesne Light Company
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077-0004

Dear Mr. Sieber:

SUBJECT: RELIEF FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL
CODE, SECTION XI (TAC M84412)

On May 6, 1991, the Commission issued a Safety Evaluation addressing the second ten-year interval inservice testing (IST) program for the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1 (BVPS-1). That Safety Evaluation included the identification of 29 anomalies and a discussion on a number of requests for relief from the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. On January 24, 1992, the Commission issued a supplement to that Safety Evaluation which addressed the results of a reexamination of the Commission's position related to certain relief requests discussed in the May 6, 1991, Safety Evaluation.

By letter dated August 18, 1992, Duquesne Light Company (DLC) submitted information concerning the anomalies, and addressed the status of resolution of certain relief requests which were granted by the Commission either on an interim basis or with certain provisions. That letter also requested additional relief. On September 25, 1992, DLC submitted, for information purposes, Issue 2, Revision 8, to the BVPS-1 IST Program.

The Code of Federal Regulations, 10 CFR 50.55a, requires that inservice testing of certain ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 pumps and valves be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and applicable addenda, except where relief has been granted or proposed alternatives authorized by the Commission pursuant to 50.55a(f)(6)(i), (a)(3)(i), or (a)(3)(ii). Guidance on acceptable alternatives to Section XI requirements was provided in Generic Letter 89-04, Guidance on Developing Acceptable Inservice Testing Programs, for certain aspects of IST.

The Commission has reviewed the information DLC has provided in support of the actions requested in the August 18, 1992, letter. Based on this review, the staff concludes that for valve relief requests VRR-27, VRR-43, and VRR-44, the proposed alternative testing will provide reasonable assurance of the operational readiness of the valves to perform their intended functions. The staff has determined that granting relief, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(6)(i) is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. In making this determination, the staff has considered the alternate testing to be

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implemented, the impracticality of performing the required testing, and the burden on the licensee if the requirements were imposed. The staff has concluded as discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, that relief request PRR-11 cannot be approved.

The enclosed Safety Evaluation provides the results of the staff review of the information provided by Duquesne Light Company (DLC) letters dated August 18, 1992 and September 25, 1992, concerning the IST Program Safety Evaluation anomalies and relief requests for Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1 inservice testing (IST) program for pumps and valves.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

John F. Stolz, Director
Project Directorate I-4
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

*See previous concurrence

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Mr. J. D. Sieber
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Beaver Valley Power Station
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