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May 10, 1988

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The Honorable John Heinz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinz:

I am responding to your March 30, 1988 letter in which you expressed concern about engineering work done several years ago at Duquesne Light Company's Beaver Valley 1 plant by Schneider Consulting Engineers (SCE). These issues received attention in an article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Press on March 27, 1988.

The article is based on an unsigned internal SCE memorandum dated December 24, 1980, alleging that some piping stress analyses performed by SCE may have been inadequate. As part of their review of the allegation, the NRC staff requested the Duquesne Light Company on March 23, 1988, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the SCE memorandum and provide a report on its findings and conclusions. Duquesne Light Company responded on April 13, 1988. A copy of Duquesne Light Company's letter is enclosed for your information. Their letter is currently under review by the staff. The results of the staff's review will be documented in an inspection report and regulatory action will be taken, if appropriate. As you requested, we will be pleased to provide you a copy of the report when it is available.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Lando W. Zech, Jr.

Enclosure:
As Stated

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April 13, 1988

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Reference: Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1
Docket No. 50-334, License No. DPR-66
Overstressed Piping Allegation

Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to your letter dated March 23, 1988 regarding the December 24, 1980 memo from Mr. Bal Gupta to Mr. Chuck McCullough. We have thoroughly reviewed this matter and the following information is provided in this regard.

In December 1980, there were three consulting firms, including Schneider Consulting Engineers (SCE), providing piping analysis services to Duquesne Light Company (DLC). The referenced memo was an internal SCE document, which was unknown to DLC until it was submitted by the Pittsburgh Press to the DLC Media Relations Department, and subsequently issued to other government officials and the NRC. When Duquesne Light Company became aware of the potential problem alluded to in the memo, we initiated a comprehensive review of our plant records.

This review concluded that the condition identified in the memo referred to the BV-1 reactor coolant pump cooling water piping which is not a portion of the reactor coolant system pressure boundary. These cooling water lines are provided to the three reactor coolant pumps for lube oil and motor cooling during normal operation. The potential overstress condition existed on two of the three pumps which had similar piping configurations. This overstress problem was reported by SCE to DLC in their letters dated December 3 and December 18, 1980.

The piping to the lube oil and stator coolers are defined as non-safety related and as such, are not required for safe plant shutdown, or to mitigate the consequences of an accident. These lines are isolated, under accident conditions, by a Containment Isolation Phase "B" (CIB) signal.

Following DLC engineering review of the December 18, 1980 letter, corrective action was initiated in accordance with project procedures. Documentation of this modification was furnished to the Construction Department by Engineering Change Notice (ECN) 305-521-OEG, and dispositioned under Design Change Package (DCP) 305.

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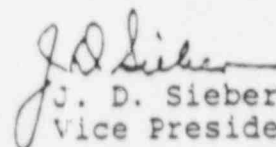
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Since the scope of the SCE effort included both safety related and nonsafety related piping, their contract provided for the implementation of a documented Quality Assurance Program which was reviewed and approved by DLC. The contractor's efforts were also monitored by DLC Engineering and their activities were audited satisfactorily by the DLC Quality Assurance Department during the course of their contract.

In conclusion, the overstress conditions alluded to in the memo were properly identified, evaluated and resolved in accordance with DLC project procedures.

If any further information is desired, please contact my office.

Very truly yours,



J. D. Sieber
Vice President, Nuclear

cc: Mr. J. T. Wiggins, NRC
Mr. J. Beall, Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. W. T. Russell, NRC Region I Administrator
Mr. P. Tam, Project Manager