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Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 2572

July 26, 1999

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: License Amendment Application to Revise Technical Specifications for
Implementation of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B for Type B and C Containment
Leakage Rate Testing (License Amendment Request No. 96-0012;
TAC No. MA6093)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is an application for an amendment to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), Unit Number 1, Operating License Number NPF-3, Appendix A, Technical Specifications. The proposed changes involve: Technical Specification (TS) Definition 1.8, Containment Integrity; TS 3/4.6.1.1, Containment Systems - Primary Containment - Containment Integrity; TS 3/4.6.1.2, Containment Systems - Containment Leakage, and associated TS Bases; and TS 3/4.6.1.3, Containment Systems - Containment Air Locks, and associated TS Bases. In addition, a new TS Section 6.16, Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program, is proposed to be added to the Administrative Controls Section of the Technical Specifications. A related change to the TS Index is also proposed to reflect the new TS Section 6.16.

On October 26, 1995, a final NRC rule implementing a performance-oriented approach to containment leakage testing became effective. This approach is identified as "Option B" of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50. The rule redesignates the previous prescriptive requirements as "Option A" and allows licensees the option of following either set of requirements. The rule requires licensees to submit a license amendment application and to obtain NRC approval of the application prior to actual adoption of Option B or parts thereof.

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In accordance with the rule implementation requirements, the enclosed license amendment application proposes the necessary Technical Specification changes to adopt the Option B approach for Type B and C containment leakage rate testing. The Option B approach for Type A containment leakage rate testing has already been implemented via License Amendment No. 205, which was approved and issued by the NRC on February 22, 1996 (Toledo Edison Log Number 4793).

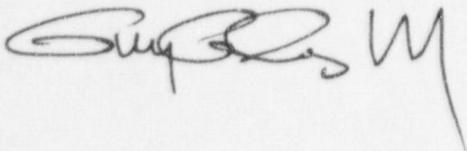
These proposed Technical Specification changes were developed utilizing Appendix J Option B model Technical Specifications developed for the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR/4) Standard Technical Specifications (STS) as guidance. These model Technical Specifications were included as an attachment to an NRC letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) dated November 2, 1995. Similar model Technical Specifications specific to the Babcock and Wilcox Owners Group (BWOG) STS are being processed as NEI Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) Change Traveler TSTF-52, Revision 1. Although this change traveler has not yet been approved by the NRC for incorporation into the BWOG STS, the DBNPS also used it as guidance.

These changes are being submitted to the NRC as a Cost Beneficial Licensing Action (CBLA). As demonstrated in the enclosed license amendment application, these changes will not adversely impact nuclear safety. The proposed changes, together with the previously approved changes implementing Option B for Type A testing, will provide a cost savings well in excess of the CBLA threshold of \$100,000 over the DBNPS's remaining life, and will result in reduced personnel radiation exposure.

In order to have the changes proposed by this amendment application in effect during the Twelfth Refueling Outage, which is presently scheduled to commence in April 2000, the DBNPS requests that this amendment application be approved by February 1, 2000. The Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program, as required by Appendix J, Option B, Section V.B.4, and as referenced in Section 6.16 of the proposed Technical Specifications, will be effective prior to implementation of the amendment.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. James L. Freels, Manager - Regulatory Affairs, at (419) 321-8466.

Very truly yours,



MKL/laj

Enclosures

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cc: S. N. Bailey, NRC/NRR Project Manager
J. E. Dyer, Regional Administrator, NRC Region III
J. R. Williams, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency,
State of Ohio (NRC Liaison)
K. S. Zellers, NRC Region III, DB-1 Senior Resident Inspector
Utility Radiological Safety Board