

October 7, 1999

Mr. James E. Cross
President
Generation Group
Duquesne Light Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077

SUBJECT: NRC 40500 INSPECTOR INSPECTION 50-334/99-06, 50-412/99-06
(CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS)

Dear Mr. Cross:

This letter transmits the results of the NRC inspection conducted at the Beaver Valley Power Station on August 9-13 and August 23-27, 1999. The inspection reviewed the effectiveness of your corrective action program using NRC Inspection Procedure 40500, "Effectiveness of Licensee Controls in Identifying, Resolving, and Preventing Problems." The results of the inspection were communicated to your staff during an exit meeting conducted on August 27, 1999. The enclosed document represents the results of this inspection.

Your problem identification and corrective action programs have been generally effective in identifying and correcting problems in a timely manner. Your development of a site-wide condition reporting system, together with data trending, has the potential to improve the overall ability of station management to identify adverse trends and conditions and respond effectively. However, some individual organizations continue to utilize department-specific problem tracking systems which are not integrated with the site-wide system. Accordingly, there is inconsistency in performance relative to effectiveness and timeliness of corrective actions, quality of tracking and trending efforts, and process implementation. Deficiencies were observed with respect to the: (1) Maintenance Work Request review process; (2) use of the condition report process for problem trending; (3) corrective action timeliness and prioritization; and, (4) management and control of measurement and testing equipment relative to use, calibration, and maintenance.

Notwithstanding, there have been improvements in your implementation of self-assessments and use of the Condition Report system to identify problems and effect corrective measures with respect to your operating organization. We found no instances of significant problem recurrence. The problem identification and corrective action aspects of the Maintenance Rule program were well managed, appropriately implemented by system engineering, and effective in identifying system problems and improving system performance.

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Based on the results of the inspection, the NRC has also determined that a Severity Level IV violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation involved 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, Design Control, and pertains to failure to correctly translate a design change with respect to pertinent operating logs and plant equipment labeling, resulting in failure to monitor the correct flow indicator for the gaseous waste oxygen analyzer for a three year period. This finding is being treated as a Non-Cited Violation (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. If you contest the violation or severity level of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I; the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Beaver Valley facility.

No reply to this letter is necessary. Your cooperation is appreciated.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Wayne D. Lanning, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos: 50-334, 50-412
License Nos: DRP-66, NPF-73

Enclosure: Inspection Report Nos. 509-334/99-06, 50-412/99-06

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