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NRC APPROVES POWER UPRATE FOR BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company to increase the generating capacity of Beaver Valley Power Station Units 1 and 2 by 1.4 percent, or about 12 megawatts of electricity per unit.

The power uprate at the station, located in Shippingport, Pennsylvania, will increase the generating capacity of each reactor to about 822 megawatts of electricity. The facility intends to implement the power increase this fall. The application for the increase in power was submitted to the NRC on January 18.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the requested power uprate for the units focused on several areas, including nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, operations and technical specification changes. The NRC staff determined that the licensee could safely increase the power output of the two reactors with minor modifications to plant equipment and because of technical refinements that permit more precise measurements of reactor operating conditions.

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