

March 27, 2002

Mr. L. W. Myers
Senior Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 1 (BVPS-1) - NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) STAFF REVIEW OF LICENSE
AMENDMENT REQUEST REGARDING THE USE OF THE WESTINGHOUSE
MASTER CURVE METHODOLOGY (TAC NO. MB3902)

Dear Mr. Myers:

By letter dated January 25, 2002, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) requested a license amendment involving Technical Specification changes associated with the BVPS-1 heatup/cooldown curves, the power-operated relief valve setpoint, and overpressure protection system enable temperature. The proposed changes are based on the Westinghouse Master Curve Methodology.

The NRC Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch technical staff has completed an acceptance review of your submittal and has determined that your proposal with regard to the treatment of unirradiated sample data is not technically justified. Specifically, when compared to test results of irradiated material samples, the manner in which you have treated the unirradiated sample data does not accurately characterize initial material properties of the BVPS-1 reactor pressure vessel, or the changes to those material properties that result from irradiation. When both of these factors are considered, applying the Master Curve Methodology would yield non-conservative results for the end of license reference temperature, RT_{PTS} , and adjusted reference temperatures necessary for the determination of BVPS-1 pressure-temperature limits.

In a telephone conference with your staff on February 22, 2002, the NRC technical staff provided its preliminary assessment of the January 25, 2002, submittal and requested that your staff consider revising the manner in which unirradiated sample data is used to establish the technical basis for the proposed changes. FENOC staff stated that they understood the nature of the NRC staff's concerns and that they would evaluate supplementing or revising the subject submittal.

Subsequent to the February 22, 2002, conference call, FENOC staff communicated to the NRC project manager for Beaver Valley that FENOC is working on a submittal to revise, in part, the January 25, 2002, application. Your staff stated that April 15, 2002, was the target date for submission of that supplemental submittal. In a later communication, on or about March 19, 2002, FENOC staff requested a meeting with the NRC technical staff, to be held on or about April 23, 2002, to discuss the NRC staff's concerns. FENOC staff indicated that the supplement to the application will be submitted after the proposed meeting.

Pending the receipt of this expected supplemental submittal, the NRC staff's review of your January 25, 2002, application has been temporarily discontinued. The review will be resumed once your supplemental submittal is received. For planning purposes, the date of receipt of the supplemental submittal will be considered to be the initiation date of the NRC staff review. Please be advised that our planning horizon for review of licensing actions such as this is typically 1 year.

Should you be unable to provide a supplemental submittal to the January 25, 2002, application in a timely manner following a meeting with the NRC technical staff, you will need to discuss the review schedule with the NRC staff. It may be appropriate for you to withdraw the application and resubmit once you have been able to reevaluate the technical basis for the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elinor G. Adensam, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-412

cc: See next page

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Elinor G. Adensam, Director
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Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2

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