



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 8, 1993

Docket No. 50-334

Mr. J. D. Sieber, Senior Vice President  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Power Division  
Duquesne Light Company  
Post Office Box 4  
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077-0004

Dear Mr. Sieber:

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 1 - INSERVICE TESTING OF CHECK VALVES (TAC NO. M84983)

The purpose of this letter is to grant the approval of check valve testing methodology requested in your letter dated November 12, 1992. In that letter Duquesne Light Company (DLC) requested interim approval of test methodology for the safety injection accumulator discharge check valves for the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1, ninth refueling outage.

In a letter dated January 24, 1992, the NRC issued a Safety Evaluation (SE) for the inservice testing (IST) of the safety injection (SI) accumulator discharge check valves stipulating that DLC revise the test method to meet either Position 1 or Position 2 of Generic Letter 89-04, *Guidance on Developing Acceptable Inservice Testing Programs*, for verifying the full-stroke opening function of these valves. In DLC's letter of November 12, 1992, the revised test method was provided.

DLC indicated that the SI accumulator discharge check valves will be tested using the method developed by Omaha Public Power District for the Fort Calhoun Station. The test method is described in NUREG/CP-0123, Proceedings of the Second NRC/ASME Symposium on Pump and Valve Testing, in a paper entitled "Alternative Method for Full Flow Stroke Testing of Safety Injection Tank Check Valves at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station," by C. N. Bloyd. In a letter dated May 5, 1992, to Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), the NRC issued an SE for the Fort Calhoun Station IST Program relief requests. In Section 2.1.7 of the May 1992 Fort Calhoun SE, Valve Relief Request E19 for the safety injection tank discharge check valves was evaluated. The staff advised OPPD that the method was acceptable for implementation. However, the staff further determined that because the method of exercising these valves depends upon a combination of test and analyses, an indepth review of the methodology would be performed. The staff indicated to OPPD that the more detailed evaluation of the exercising methodology by NRC may result in a future change in the staff's position with regard to this test method. Currently, the staff is contracting Oak Ridge National Laboratory to perform such an evaluation of the Fort Calhoun test methodology.

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If the testing is determined to be acceptable for a full-stroke exercise of the safety injection tank discharge check valves, the method is acceptable in accordance with the Code requirements and the guidance of Position 1 of GL 89-04. Based on the information presented by Fort Calhoun, the test methodology appears to meet these requirements and guidance. The staff considers the detailed evaluation a verification of the testing and a means of determining if any changes to the test procedures or assumptions are required for compliance. Until the final evaluation is complete, the method is considered acceptable. Therefore, DLC may utilize essentially the same method in the upcoming Beaver Valley Unit 1 refueling outage. When the final evaluation of the testing performed at Fort Calhoun Station is complete, NRC will provide a copy to DLC and will inform DLC if any changes in the testing, such as the use of nonintrusive techniques, are required for Code compliance.

Because DLC is conducting the testing in a manner that meets the guidance in Position 1 of Generic Letter 89-04 as stipulated in the previous SE, further NRC approval is not required at this time. You should proceed with actions as described in the DLC letter dated November 12, 1992.

Sincerely,

/s/  
Walter R. Butler

Walter R. Butler, Director  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,



Walter R. Butler, Director  
Project Directorate I-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc See next page

Mr. J. D. Sieber  
Duquesne Light Company

Beaver Valley Power Station  
Units 1 & 2

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