



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

March 20, 1985

PR
LJE
Duquesne 14

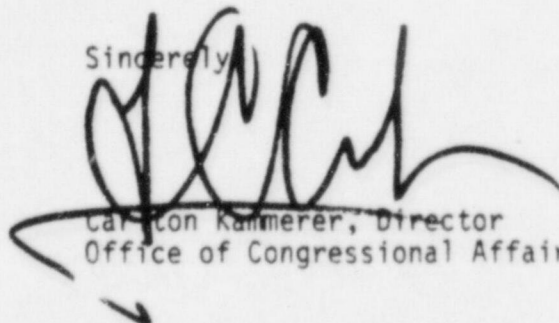
The Honorable Edward Markey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Duquesne Light Company for allegedly failing to maintain the integrity of a system that prevents the release of radioactivity into the environment at the company's Beaver Valley Power Station.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, March 20, 1985.

Sincerely,


Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Sen. Heinz
Sen. Specter
Rep. Kolter
Rep. Walgren

8510230182 851004
PDR FOIA
JACOBS85-478 PDR

22

OFFICE	OCA						
URNAME	COMBS:lac						
DATE	3/20/85						



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555**

No. 85-45
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, March 20, 1985)

NRC STAFF CITES DUQUESNE LIGHT COMPANY FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AT BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION UNIT I; PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited the Duquesne Light Company for allegedly failing to maintain the integrity of a system that prevents the release of radioactivity into the environment at the company's Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit I located in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, about 5 miles east of East Liverpool, Ohio. The NRC proposes to fine the company \$50,000.

The system, on which the alleged violations occurred, is called the primary containment system. There was no release of radioactivity into the environment as a result of this alleged violation because a slight negative pressure inside of the containment would have prevented small radioactive particles from escaping through the opening in the containment.

On January 7, 1985, an NRC inspector at the nuclear facility found that there had been a violation of the containment system on December 23 through 26, 1984, when the valve to a one-inch drain on a pump in the reactor containment recirculation system was left open. On December 26, 1984, employees of the company recognized that the valve was opened and closed it, but they did not recognize that it was a violation of the technical specifications for operating the plant and consequently did not report the problem to the NRC as required.

The pump would only be needed in emergency situations. It would pump radioactive water that might collect in a sumpwell in the primary containment system to a spray system that would be used in controlling the pressure inside the containment system.

At the time of the alleged violation, the company was preparing the nuclear facility for startup following a scheduled refueling outage.

In a letter informing the company of this proposed enforcement action, Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, said, "This violation is but one instance of inadequate control of activities during this reactor startup."

Dr. Murley noted that at an enforcement conference between members of the NRC regional staff and members of the staff of the Beaver Valley facility on February 13, 1985, the Beaver Valley staff members "acknowledged that a negative trend does exist and that the need for improvements at the facility to prevent recurrence is recognized."

The company has 30 days to either pay the fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to write to the NRC and describe what was done or will be done to assure that this alleged violation does not recur.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

#