February 28, 2000

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

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY 1 - DEFERRAL OF A STEAM GENERATOR TUBE PULL DURING REFUELING OUTAGE 1R13 (TAC NO. MA8248)

Dear Mr. Myers:

By letter dated February 18, 2000 (L-00-021), FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) submitted a request for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval for deferral of a steam generator tube pull during the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1 (BVPS-1), Refueling Outage 1R13, provided that results of the steam generator inspections do not reveal tube support plate (TSP) outside diameter stress corrosion cracking (ODSCC) indications greater than 3.0 volts. This letter provides the NRC staff's approval of your request.

One of the purposes of the Generic Letter (GL) 95-05, "Voltage-Based Repair Criteria for Westinghouse Steam Generator Tubes Affected by Outside Diameter Stress Corrosion Cracking," tube removal program is to provide additional data to enhance the conditional leak rate, burst pressure, and probability of leakage correlations. By letter dated September 22, 1999, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted Addendum 3 to the Steam Generator Degradation Specific Management Database, as well as the associated correlations for use by the industry in alternate repair criteria (ARC) applications, for NRC review and approval. This letter stated, in part, that the pulled tube database supporting the voltage-based repair limits has been significantly increased since the issuance of GL 95-05, and included industry recommendations for updating the requirements regarding pulling steam generator tubes in support of the ARC. One of these recommendations is the allowance for a utility to defer tube removal by one operating cycle if no pullable tube indications are found that would satisfy the industry target indications; industry target indications for 7/8-inch tubing are greater than 3.0 volts. This would result in a maximum interval between tube removals of four operating cycles.

By letter dated January 31, 2000, the NRC staff responded to the NEI/industry proposals for updating the GL 95-05 tube pull program. The staff found the industry recommendation for deferral of tube pulls to be acceptable, except for the situation where tube pull specimens have not been obtained either during the plant steam generator inspection outage that implements the ARC or during an inspection outage preceding initial application of these criteria. The staff also noted its disagreement with the industry recommendation to eliminate the requirement for leak tests performed on small indications when field and post non-destructive examination data clearly show crack depths are not greater than 85 percent.

In your February 18, 2000, letter you stated that the highest TSP ODSCC voltage indication during the last BVPS-1 steam generator inspections during 1R12 was 2.5 volts. You noted that, if similar results are obtained during 1R13, acquiring additional tube pull specimens would provide little value to the industry database. Therefore, you requested NRC approval for deferral of a steam generator tube pull during Refueling Outage 1R13, provided that results of the steam generator inspections do not reveal TSP ODSCC indications greater than 3.0 volts. Implementation of the revised guidance, you stated, will preclude the expenditure of significant man rem exposure to inspection and repair personnel for the acquisition of tube pull specimens with TSP ODSCC indications under 3.0 volts. You noted, also, that the staff's concerns with the industry's proposed revisions are not applicable to BVPS-1 since (1) tube pulls have already been performed on BVPS-1 and, even with a deferment, tube pulls will occur in outage 1R14; and, (2) BVPS-1 will continue to follow the GL 95-05 guidance for examination and testing requirements, which include leak tests, on removed tube intersections.

Based on the NRC staff's previous review of the Addendum 3 revisions, and the information provided in FENOC's February 18, 2000, letter, the NRC staff considers it acceptable for BVPS-1 to defer acquisition of steam generator tube pull samples until Refueling Outage 1R14, provided that there are no TSP ODSCC indications greater than 3.0 volts identified during Refueling Outage 1R13. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1427.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel S. Collins, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-334

cc: See next page

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Daniel S. Collins, Project Manager, Section 1
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