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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject: Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1 and No. 2
BV-1 Docket No. 50-334, License No. DPR-66
BV-2 Docket No. 50-412, License No. NPF-73
Westinghouse Laser Welded Sleeve Width**

This letter notifies the NRC of commitment by FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) to ensure that future installations of Westinghouse laser welded sleeves at Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 include a requirement that the average weld width must be confirmed to be at least 21 mils. This commitment resolves a concern regarding the weld width for the sleeve-to-tube welds for Westinghouse laser welded sleeves. The background of this issue is discussed below.

The Westinghouse laser welded sleeve design is approved for use in the Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 steam generators by reference to WCAP-13483, Rev. 1 in the Beaver Valley Unit 1 and 2 Technical Specification Surveillance Requirements 4.4.5.4.a.9. To date, no Westinghouse laser welded sleeves have been installed within the steam generators at Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2. FENOC has scheduled the installation of Westinghouse laser welded sleeves in the Beaver Valley Unit 1 (BV-1) steam generators during the Thirteenth Refueling Outage (1R13) which began on February 15, 2000.

Westinghouse has notified FENOC by letter dated February 8, 2000, of its commitment to the NRC to modify the inspection procedure for future laser welded sleeves to include a requirement that the average weld width must be confirmed to be at least 21 mils. This commitment satisfies one of the actions agreed to by Westinghouse in the resolution of NRC concerns regarding laser welded sleeve weld width.

The laser welded sleeve weld width issue concerned a computer modeling error with the determination of the shear stress for the sleeve-to-tube weld. Westinghouse reviewed this issue and concluded that the minimum width of 15 mils specified for the sleeve-to-tube weld met the ASME Section III requirements for design-by-testing. However, in order to also ensure compliance with the ASME Section III requirements for design-by-

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analysis, Westinghouse has agreed to ensure that a minimum sleeve-to tube weld width of 21 mils is maintained for future installations of laser welded sleeves.

FENOC has reviewed this issue for applicability to Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 and has determined that:

- This issue does not represent a concern for any installed Westinghouse laser weld sleeves at Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 since none have been installed to date.
- Including a requirement that the average weld width must be confirmed to be at least 21 mils in the inspection procedure for future installations of Westinghouse laser welded sleeves will ensure compliance with the ASME Section III Code design-by-analysis requirements.

FENOC commits to ensuring that the inspection procedure used for future installations of Westinghouse laser welded sleeves at Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2 includes a requirement that the average weld width must be confirmed to be at least 21 mils. If any welds are determined to have an average weld width of less than 21 mils, these welds will be evaluated by an engineering disposition process. Since this commitment ensures compliance to the ASME Section III design-by-analysis requirements, it is binding and will not be modified without prior notification of the NRC.

The installation of Westinghouse laser welded sleeves at Beaver Valley Unit 1 is scheduled to begin on March 6, 2000. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. J. J. Maracek at (412) 393-5232 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Lew W. Myers

c: Mr. D. S. Collins, Project Manager
Mr. D. M. Kern, Sr. Resident Inspector
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