

Findings of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letter dated August 27, 1996, and supplemental letters dated January 17, February 18, March 27, April 4, April 25, April 29, May 30, June 2, June 13, June 18, August 4, August 8, and September 10, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Hartsville Memorial Library, 147 West College, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 22nd day of September, 1997.

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Gordon E. Edison,

*Acting Director, Project Directorate II-I,
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II, Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412]

Duquesne Light Company, et al.; Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering approval, by issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80, of the indirect transfer of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-66 and NPF-73, to the extent they are held by the Duquesne Light Company (DLC) for Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (BVPS-1 and BVPS-2), located in Shippingport, Pennsylvania.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would consent to the indirect transfer of the licenses with respect to a proposed merger between DQE, Inc., and Allegheny Power Systems, Inc. DQE, Inc. is the parent holding company of DLC, which holds

licenses to possess interests in and operate BVPS-1 and BVPS-2. The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company, and Ohio Edison Company, and its subsidiary Pennsylvania Power Company, also hold licenses to possess interests in BVPS-1 and BVPS-2, but are not involved in the proposed merger. In the proposed merger, DQE, Inc. will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Allegheny Power. Allegheny Power will be renamed Allegheny Energy, Inc.

According to the application, the merger will have no effect on the operation of Beaver Valley Power Station or the provisions of its operating licenses. The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, The Toledo Edison Company, Ohio Edison Company, and Pennsylvania Power Company will remain licensees responsible for their possessory interests and related obligations. Duquesne Light Company will continue to operate the Beaver Valley Power Station after the merger, as required by the operating licenses. No direct transfer of the licenses will result from the merger.

The proposed action is in accordance with DLC's request for approval dated August 1, 1997.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is required to obtain the necessary consent to the indirect transfer of the licenses discussed above. According to the application, the underlying transaction is needed to create a stronger, more competitive enterprise that is expected to save over \$1 billion in net savings over the first 10 years, thereby enhancing DLC's financial resources to possess its interests in BVPS-1 and BVPS-2.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has reviewed the proposed action and concludes that there will be no changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no

significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1," dated July 1973, and the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2," dated September 1986 in NUREG-1094.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with its stated policy, on September 5, 1997, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, Mr. Michael P. Murphy of the Bureau of Radiation Protection, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see DLC's submittal dated August 1, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the B. F. Jones Memorial Library, 663 Franklin Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of September 1997.

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz,

*Director, Project Directorate I-2, Division of
Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear
Reactor Regulation.*

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