



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission  
NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER  
16 Reactor Road  
Narragansett, R.I. 02882-1165

23 March 2001

Docket No. 50-193

Mr. Marvin Mendonca, Senior Project Manager  
Non-Power Reactors, Decommissioning and  
Environmental Project Directorate  
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Mendonca :

The purpose of this letter is to request a Technical Specification change for the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center. We have been working on trying to get our procedures updated and in line with the current Technical Specifications, as well as in the ANSI Standard format that we have decided to adopt. We would like to have one procedure that handles the channel tests, checks, and calibrations for all of the alarms, scrams, and interlocks that we have. Our current Tech Specs have an annual requirement for all of these channels except the pool water level scram check, which is currently required by Technical Specification §4.3.4 to be performed monthly.

We think that the reason that this was put into the Technical Specifications as a monthly check, rather than an annual check, is because it is tied in to our security system. The security company that we had when these specifications were written, did a monthly check of their entire system, including the pool level scram. However, we no longer have that company monitoring our system, and the new company does not do monthly checks.

We would like to change the pool level scram check interval to annual, so that it is like all of the rest of the scram check intervals.

Please realize that this is independent of the safety system scram checks that are required prior to each day's operation. Those checks will continue to be performed prior to start-up.

If there are any questions, please call me at (401)789-9391.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Davis  
Reactor Supervisor

cc : Mr. Craig Bassett

A020

Applicability:

This specification applies to the surveillance of the primary coolant system.

Objective:

To assure high quality pool water and to detect the deterioration of components in the primary coolant loop.

Specification:

1. The pH of the primary coolant shall be measured weekly.
2. The resistivity of the primary coolant shall be measured weekly.
3. The radioactivity of the primary coolant shall be analyzed weekly for gross activity and quarterly for isotopic activity.
4. Pool water level scram switch shall be checked for operation annually.
5. Pool inspections shall be made annually in accordance with operating procedures.
6. Pool level shall be visually inspected daily in accordance with operating procedures.

Bases:

Regular surveillance of pool water quality and radioactivity provides assurance that pH and resistivity changes that could accelerate the corrosion of the primary system components would be detected before significant damage would occur, and that the presence of leaking fuel elements in the reactor is detected.

The low pool level switch is checked for operation monthly. Upon a one inch pool level drop, the automatic fill begins; upon a two inch drop, the reactor scrams (if operating) and a local and remote alarm sounds. The remote alarm is continuously monitored offsite.

Annual pool system inspections are made to provide assurance that other cooling system components (eg. gate valves, gasketing etc.) are functioning properly.

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