

23-5

**From:** Kristine Thomas ? *not on NRC list*  
**To:** Bill Bateman, Edmund Sullivan, Emmett Murphy, J... NRR  
**Date:** Thu, Jul 29, 1999 4:25 PM  
**Subject:** Latest from NEI on S/G TS/TRM

On Tuesday of this week, NEI met to discuss several issues related to the S/G effort. I called Jim Riley, NEI, this afternoon get some feedback on the meeting. Jim said that NEI is going to take the following positions:

- 1. NEI now believes that licensees should be able to use NRC plant specific SERs for ARC vs. waiting for the NRC to develop a generic SER. Their basis for this position is that NRC's generic approval process is much too long.** (If a lengthy generic approval process is the problem, maybe we should take a look at the process and make some adjustments as we are in several other areas.)
- 2. NEI now believes that S/G operability should not be tied to performance criteria.** (We backed down on the use of repair criteria/methods when determining operability at NEI's request a few weeks ago. Now they're asking for more.)
- 3. NEI believes that NEI 97-06 is not a document that should be referenced in the TRM since it is not a regulatory document - they currently believe that each licensee should commit to its use in the cover letter for the TS change. Their concern is that inspectors will use NEI 97-06 to inspect and that referencing it in the TRM would bring it into enforcement space.** (Committing to NEI 97-06 in a cover letter to a licensing action would not prohibit inspectors from using the document during inspection and any related enforcement decisions. If NEI backs down on NEI 97-06, then their comments regarding DG-1074 (i.e., that it's not need) may no longer be valid)

Jim indicated that NEI would like to have a SMM in the near future (August/September timeframe) to discuss the three (and possibly other) issues. I plan to check some calendars to find certain timeframes that a meeting would be possible. However, I asked Jim to work with the staff first so that we can fully understand the basis for the "new" positions. As such, I've put all 3 issues on the agenda for Monday's (8/2/99) telecon.

Kris

Mike Tuckman (called Sam)

J/210