

BWR OWNERS' GROUP

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NRC Project 691

BWROG-02010
March 19, 2002

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Joseph E. Donoghue
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SUBJECT: ***BWR OWNERS' GROUP LICENSING TOPICAL REPORT
NEDO-33003 "REGULATORY RELAXATION FOR THE H₂/O₂ MONITORS
AND COMBUSTIBLE GAS CONTROL SYSTEMS***

- References:
- (1) NEDO-33003, "Regulatory Relaxations for the H₂/O₂ Monitors and Combustible Gas Control Systems" dated July 2001
 - (2) TSTF Standard Technical Specification Proposed Change Number 428, "Relocate PAM H₂/O₂ Analyzers and Hydrogen Recombiner Specifications" (currently in preparation)
 - (3) Letter from Anthony R. Pietrangelo (NEI) to NRC, "NEI Comments on the Draft §50.44 (ref. 66 Fed Reg. 57001, dated November 14, 2001" dated December 20, 2001

In consideration of the late 2002 / early 2003 expected revision of 10 CFR 50.44, the BWR Owners' Group (BWROG) requests that the NRC suspend the review of NEDO-33003, "Regulatory Relaxations for the H₂/O₂ Monitors and Combustible Gas Control Systems" (Reference 1). The NRC may retain this BWROG topical report for information and use by the NRC staff. The BWROG may later request the NRC to proceed with the review of this BWROG Licensing Topical Report if the 10CFR50.44 rulemaking activities do not progress as expected.

With regard to the 10CFR50.44 rulemaking, the BWROG requests that the NRC re-evaluate their position with respect to maintaining O₂ monitor Tech Spec requirements for BWRs with inerted containments. We recommend that these requirements be relocated to a licensee-controlled document such as the Technical Requirements Manual. This position is consistent with References 1, 2 and 3 above. Note that the Reference 2 traveler currently in preparation will provide supplementary information that supports removal of the O₂ monitors from the Technical

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Specifications. BWR 4 Standard Technical Specifications (3.6.3.3) contain other provisions that require the primary containment oxygen concentration be maintained less than 4% by volume.

The BWROG also has a comment on the Tech Spec markups that accompanied the draft rule language released by the NRC on October 26, 2001. The BWR 4 Standard Tech Spec markup shows two drywell O₂ analyzers and two containment O₂ analyzers. Typical BWRs have a total of two O₂ analyzers. One samples the drywell and the other samples the wetwell. Piping is configured such that either of these analyzers can sample the drywell and wetwell on an alternating basis should one analyzer become inoperable.

If you desire to discuss this information in more detail, please contact the General Electric Project Manager, TA Green at (408) 925-1308 or the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



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