

October 21, 2002

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N. W.
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Pietrangelo:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed its review of the Nuclear Energy Institute Technical Specification Change Traveler, TSTF-445, "Revision to Peak Linear Heat Rate Safety Limit" proposed changes to NUREG-1432, Rev. 2, "Standard Technical Specifications Combustion Engineering Plants."

TSTF-445 proposes to replace Technical Specification (TS) Safety Limit 2.1.1.2, "Peak Linear Heat Rate" with a "Peak Fuel Centerline Temperature" Safety Limit. This change is necessary such that the Safety Limit adequately conforms to 10 CFR 50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A) which requires that Limiting Safety System Settings prevent a Safety Limit from being exceeded during normal operations and Anticipated Operational Occurrences. This proposed change is consistent with the Westinghouse and B&W improved Standard Technical Specifications with one modification which allows for adjustments for burnable poisons. TSTF-445 proposed to reference the approved methodology for the adjustments for burnable poisons in the TS 2.1.1.2 Bases.

The proposed location of the NRC approved methodology is not consistent with the recent TS amendments for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2, dated March 4, 2002, (ADAMS Accession Number ML020640603), and Waterford Steam Electric Station dated March 5, 2002, (ADAMS Accession Number ML 020640587). Similar to the NRC approved methodologies listed in the Core Operating Limits Report in STS 5.6.5, the NRC approved methodology for adjusting the burnable poisons should be referenced in TS 2.1.1.2 itself. The staff concludes that this change will not have a significant impact on the remaining seven Combustion Engineering sites, four of which have already converted to standard technical specifications. Therefore, TSTF-445 will require revision. This has been discussed with the TSTF.

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo

- 2 -

Please contact me at (301) 415-1161 or e-mail wdb@nrc.gov if you have any questions or need further information on these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Program Director
Operating Reactor Improvements Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: J. Arbuckle, BWROG
D. Bice, CEOG
N. Clarkson, BWOG
S. Wideman, WOG
D. Hoffman, EXCEL

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo

- 2 -

Please contact me at (301) 415-1161 or e-mail wdb@nrc.gov if you have any questions or need further information on these proposed changes.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Program Director
Operating Reactor Improvements Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: J. Arbuckle, BWROG
D. Bice, CEOG
N. Clarkson, BWOG
S. Wideman, WOG
D. Hoffman, EXCEL

DISTRIBUTION:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| ADAMS | DMatthews/FGillespie | WDBeckner | FAkstulewicz |
| RORP R/F | RLDennig | KKavanagh | MKowal |
| LHill- TSTF-445 | | | |

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\RORP\KAVANAGH\TSTF 445 R0 denial

ADAMS Accession #ML022950161

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| OFFICE | TSS/DRIP:NRR | TSS/DRIP:NRR | SC:TSS/DRIP:NRR | PD:RORP:DRIP:NRR |
| NAME | KKavanagh | LHill | RLDennig | WDBeckner |
| DATE | 10/21/02 | 10/21/02 | 10/22/02 | 10/21/02 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY