

March 18, 2003

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 1, "Revision to Peak Linear Heat Rate Safety Limit" proposed changes to NUREG-1432, Rev. 2, "Standard Technical Specifications Combustion Engineering Plants."

TSTF-445 Revision 1 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. The staff finds the proposed changes acceptable and applicable to both analog and digital plants. The staff issued its safety evaluation approving TSTF-445 for plant-specific license amendment requests and for incorporation into NUREG-1432, Rev. 2, "Standard Technical Specifications Combustion Engineering Plants" by letter dated December 23, 2002. TSTF-445 Revision 1 provides a minor editorial change to the wording of the Safety Limit which does not result in a change to the staff's safety evaluation. As a matter of efficiency, the staff has chosen not to process TSTF-445 Revision 1 through the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) since there are relatively few licensees remaining that have not adopted this change.

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: T. Silko, BWROG
D. Bice, CEOG
P. Infanger, BWOG
S. Wideman, WOG
D. Hoffman, EXCEL
B. Mann, EXCEL

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