

September 25, 2003

Technical Specification Task Force
c/o Donald Hoffman
EXCEL Services Corporation
11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

By letter dated July 15, 2003, Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) submitted Revision 2 to TSTF-429, "Ice Mass Determination Surveillance Requirements," for NRC review. TSTF-429 revises Surveillance Requirements (SRs) 3.6.15.2, 3.6.15.3, and 3.6.15.6 and associated Bases of NUREG 1431, "Standard Technical Specifications Westinghouse Plants" (STSs), Revision 2. These SRs apply only to units with an ice condenser containment. The proposed changes are based on the Ice Condenser Utility Group's (ICUG's) Topical Report ICUG-001, "Application of the Active Ice Mass Management (AIMM) Concept to the Ice Condenser Ice Mass Technical Specification," Revision 2, dated June 2003. As documented in its safety evaluation of ICUG-001 dated September 11, 2003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML032541235), the NRC staff found the AIMM methodology presented in the topical report to be acceptable with two exceptions. First, the staff did not approve the provision for increasing ice basket sample size as needed to demonstrate compliance with an ice basket group's minimum total ice mass acceptance criterion. Second, the staff did not approve visual inspection as an alternate ice mass determination method.

Only the first of these exceptions is reflected in TSTF-429, Revision 2, as the proposed STS Bases do not describe ice mass determination methods. Specifically, the last sentence of the third paragraph of Insert D, regarding the proposed Bases for SR 3.6.15.2, states:

The number of sample baskets in any radial zone may be increased as necessary to verify the total mass of that Radial Zone.

This sentence should be replaced with a bracketed description of a specific staff-approved procedure for increasing a Radial Zone's ice basket sample size, such as that proposed for McGuire and Catawba in Duke Energy Corporation's supplemental application dated September 2, 2003:

[The number of sample baskets in any Radial Zone may be increased once by adding 20 or more randomly selected baskets to verify the total mass of that Radial Zone.]

In addition, the STS 3.6.15 Bases should fully reference the approved revision of ICUG-001 (title, date, and revision number). The Bases should also list the staff's letter forwarding the safety evaluation for ICUG-001, Revision 2.

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Revising TSTF-429 to incorporate these changes will ensure that NUREG-1431 will be consistent with the ice mass verification SRs being proposed by the ICUG member facilities.

If you have any questions, please contact Thomas Boyce at (301) 415-1156 or e-mail thb@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Chief
Reactor Operations Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: T. Silko, BWROG
P. Furio, CEOG
P. Infanger, BWOG
S. Wideman, WOG

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