

NRC/NEI Meeting on Setpoint Methods

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Instrumentation Setpoint Methodologies

- Because of concerns over margins potentially being reduced due to a non-conservative methodology used to support recent amendment requests, we have decided that we need to revisit the safety aspects of such requests. Staff were particularly concerned about large power up rates where margins may be reduced. As such, we first requested NEI assistance in evaluating this concern before embarking on any regulatory course of action.
- We do not believe this is directly related to the issue of whether the Allowable Value or the Trip Setpoint is used to represent the Limiting Safety System Settings required to be in technical specifications.

Limiting Safety System Settings

Trip Setpoint vs Allowable Value

- This issue primarily involves what values are required to be in Technical Specifications to represent the LSSS.
- The LSSS issue has been extensively discussed both internally and in public (e.g., September 2, 1999 ACRS Meeting, public comment on TSTF-355).
- The NRC position is clearly stated in the Standard Technical Specifications bases and in formal responses to Vendors and Owners groups (Ltr. Matthews to Sepp dated October 21, 1999).
- Because the LSSS issue is primarily a legal issue (and to some extent terminology) and not a safety issue, we have not attempted to backfit licensees. Specifically, we converted licensees to the iSTS w/o requiring new setpoint methodologies.
- Different from the current concern which involves the technical adequacy of the setpoint methodology used to determine the values. 3