

May 18, 2004

Mr. Mano K. Nazar
American Electric Power
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Indiana Michigan Power Company
Nuclear Generation Group
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

SUBJECT: DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - LICENSE
AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE CONVERSION OF CURRENT
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TO IMPROVED TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATIONS (TAC NOS. MC2629 AND MC2630)

Dear Mr. Nazar:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is piloting an Accelerated Improved Standard Technical Specifications (ISTS) Conversion Process.

By letter dated April 6, 2004 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML041200298 and ML041200298), you proposed to amend Technical Specifications for the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant (CNP), Units 1 and 2, of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-58 and DPR-74 to convert the current Technical Specifications to Improved Technical Specifications (ITS) consistent with ISTS as described in NUREG-143 1, "Standard Technical Specifications - Westinghouse Plants," Revision 2, and certain generic changes to the NUREG.

The NRC staff is using your ITS Conversion application dated April 6, 2004, to pilot an Accelerated ISTS Conversion Process. The purpose of this Accelerated ISTS Conversion Process is to improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

Our goals are (1) to reduce the conversion review time by months from the normal 16 months, and (2) to equal or increase the NRC staff efficiency from the normal 2.0 Full Time Equivalent.

The pilot for the Accelerated ISTS Conversion Process will consist of the following:

- Work plan preparation, which, in conjunction with the Work Planning Center and appropriate technical review branches, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Project Manager is expected to coordinate. The NRR Office Instruction LIC-101, Revision 3, "License Amendment Review Process," guidance addresses planning the license amendment action, including obtaining a Technical Assignment Control number, reviewing the application for completeness, searching for precedent licensing actions, identifying technical issues, determining technical complexity, developing estimates of resources required, and coordinating activities of various personnel involved in reviewing and issuing the amendment.
- Web based issue tracking. Questions, comments, clarifications, information, and/or responses will be tracked on the NRC Public Web Page,

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/techspecs.html> under the "Comments on the application and responses by D.C. Cook" web link. This will provide improved public access to information, improved tracking of issues, and improved efficiency in resolving technical issues and concerns. The NRC staff and the CNP staff working on the ITS Conversion will have passwords to enter questions, comments, clarifications, information, and/or responses.

- Public meeting. A public meeting will be held to discuss issues. The meeting summary will docket the information contained in the "Comments on the application and responses by D.C. Cook" web link.
- Supplement. You will provide a supplement to your April 6, 2004, application under oath and affirmation capturing all necessary information from the "Comments on the application and responses by D.C. Cook" web link.
- Public notification and comment resolution. LIC-101, Revision 3 provides guidance on procedures for the public notification of license amendment actions.
- Safety evaluation preparation. LIC-101, Revision 3 provides guidance for the planning and conduct of the safety review and the preparation of the safety evaluation.
- Review and concurrence. LIC-101, Revision 3 provides guidance for the concurrence process by which the quality of the amendment package is assured.
- Amendment preparation and issuance. LIC-101, Revision 3 provides guidance on the final issuance or denial of the amendment.

You requested the proposed ITS Conversion license amendment before February 28, 2005. The NRC staff's intention is to complete our review consistent with your request, provided your proposed ITS Conversion license amendment and future supplement(s) are high quality.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1446.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-315 and 50-316

cc: See next page

May 18, 2004

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John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1
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Docket Nos. 50-315 and 50-316

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