

**NEI Setpoint Methods Task Force (SMTF)  
Comments on NRC Presentation on March 11, 2005**

NRC Slide 2

- Operability is, in part, based on satisfying LSSS requirements AND functioning as required

Comment – The definition of operability is:

- (1) performing the intended safety function(s)
- (2) the as-found/measured setpoint is conservative with respect to the AV
- (3) the as-found/measured setpoint is reset in accordance with the setpoint methodology to be consistent with the trip setpoint
- (4) the performance of SRs is satisfactory within specified tolerances
- (5) there is no other reason to believe the instrument is not operable

NRC Slide 3

- Normal Industry Practice: Set as-left setting to TSP

Comment – SMTF requests further discussion to clarify

- TSP Protects Safety Limit

Comment – The TSP or the AV protects the safety limit.

- Some evidence Licensees with AV Based LSSS may leave as-left setting at AV

Comments:

- (1) Outliers are not a basis for generic action
- (2) This is an enforcement issue

NRC Slide 4

- Therefore, to protect the SL and satisfy 10 CFR 50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A) the as-left instrument setting must be set to the TSP at the conclusion of each COT/CFT.

Comment – replace CFT with CALIBRATION, and include “within the calibration tolerance”

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NRC Slide 6

- Allowable Values or Trip Setpoints can be defined as LSSS

Comment – TSP are defined as LSSS

- Technical Specification Bases provide additional guidance for protecting the SL

Comment – TS Bases provide background or clarifying information about the SL

- LSSS values are used to establish the limiting setpoints necessary to protect the AL

Comment – TSPs are used to establish LSSS to protect the AL

- Operability assessed whether the instrument channels are functioning properly using combination of daily channel checks, quarterly channel operational test/channel functional test (COT/CFT), and refueling outage calibration tests

Comments –

- (1) “functioning” means capable of performing the intended safety function(s)
- (2) recognize that this is a partial list
- (3) calibration tests are not limited to refueling outages

- LSSS and Operability, while related, are two separate issues

Comment – SMTF is not clear what this means. Also, see operability comment on slide 2.

NRC Slide 7

- AV<sub>3</sub> represents the limiting as-found value for an instrument functioning as expected

Comment – “as found” is a key term; we should be sure we are interpreting it the same way

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NRC Slide 10

- AV3 does not establish a conservative limit

Comment – disagree (reference 12/17/04 letter)

- Assumed the as-left instrument setting was reset to the TSP<sub>cal</sub> prior to each Monte Carlo simulated test.

Comment – The assumption that the as-left instrument setting was reset to the TSP<sub>cal</sub> prior to each Monte Carlo run is consistent with industry practice.

- Modeled the wrong problem: The analysis assessed whether the TSP<sub>cal</sub> protected the AL, not whether an A V based on Method 3 did.

Comment – The correct problem was modeled. The Monte Carlo analysis demonstrated that even badly drifting channels can be detected and called inoperable through surveillance test (measured TSP exceeds AV<sub>3</sub>) with sufficient sensitivity to protect the AL (actual TSP < AL) greater than 95% of the time.

NRC Slide 11

To meet 10 CFR 50.36

- As-left setting must be reset to within TOL of TSP<sub>N</sub>
- Operability based on equipment functioning as required
- TSP<sub>N</sub> equal to or more conservative than TSP<sub>cal</sub>

Comments –

- (1) SMTF does not see the connection between 50.36 and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bullets
- (2) With respect to the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet, see SMTF comment on slide 2.

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Slide 12

- Recommend LSSS defined as  $TSP_{cal}$  based on TLU
  - Account for credible uncertainties

Comment – This is not consistent with Slide 11.

- As-Left Setting Returned to  $TSP_N$ 
  - (2<sup>nd</sup> bullet) Controlled within calibration tolerance band – may exceed LSSS

Comments –

- (1) The as-left setting is left or returned to the  $TSP_N$
- (2) The relevance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet depends on our first comment on this slide

- Operability Band Based on Deviation Limit

Comments –

- (1) This is essentially a new “Method 4”
- (2) It is not needed because the current Methods 1, 2, and 3 are acceptable
- (3) There is no safety or cost/benefit basis for incurring the administrative overhead associated with implementation of new method

NRC Slide 14

- TSP-Based LSSS
  - Clarify expectations on operability

Comment – see comment on Slide 2

- AV-Based LSSS
  - Method 3 is not acceptable

Comment – disagree

- Clarify expectations on operability

Comment – see comment on Slide 2

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NRC Slide 15

- Method 3 is Not Acceptable to Set LSSS AVs

Comment – disagree

- Method 3 is Acceptable to Set LSSS TSPs

Comment – Methods 1 and 2 are also acceptable

- All Methods Must Provide Reasonable Assurance
  - SL is Protected
  - Equipment Functions as Required

Comment – “functions” means “intended safety function” as clarified by the improved Standard Technical Specifications

- TSTF/CLIP Enhances Regulatory Certainty

Comment – The TSTF/CLIP process enhances certainty