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From: Christopher Grimes
To: Tilda Liu
Date: Wed, Dec 8, 2004 8:48 AM
Subject: Q&A for UFM

Tilda: Jim requested a Q&A on UFM as backup for the Commission meeting tomorrow, in case the topic comes up relative to power uprates. Please add the attached to his briefing book. Thanks

CC: Brian Sheron; Evangelos Marinos; Gene Suh; George Dick; Jared Wermiel; Jim Dyer; Jose Calvo; Mark Kowal; Richard Barrett; Richard Borchardt; Suzanne Black; Warren Lyon

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Question: What is the status of the ultrasonic flow meter issue, and is that issue preventing licensees from pursuing power uprates for measurement uncertainty?

Answer:

We do not believe that the ultrasonic flow meter issue is preventing licensees from pursuing power uprates for margin uncertainty recapture or power recovery. In a public meeting held on September 17, 2004, licensees described their experience using ultrasonic flow meters to achieve more accurate feedwater flow measurements and actions they have taken to ensure that they do not exceed their licensed power level. Licensees using the Westinghouse Crossflow instrument and the Caldon external Leading Edge Flow Meters described various actions taken to ensure appropriate plant-specific correction factors. In a letter dated October 19, 2004, Westinghouse described the results of the efforts to reassess the use of the Crossflow instrument for margin uncertainty recapture and power recovery, and they reiterated their confidence that there is reasonable assurance that plants using the Crossflow device are operating within their licensed power level. There have been no reported events associated with the Caldon in-line instrument.

The staff is continuing to evaluate the generic implications of reported flow meter inaccuracies and allegations regarding the sufficiency of the technical basis for the measurement accuracy claims. The staff has concluded that the potential inaccuracies does not represent an immediate safety concern. The staff is continuing to consider a generic communication to ensure that licensees clearly understand the accuracy measurement challenges, so that inspectors can verify compliance with the licensed power level.