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From:
James Wiggins

TACs:
MD8216

To: FAST *** YELLOW ***

For Signature of:

Routing:

Dyer
Wiggins
Mitchell
Boger
Grobe
NRR Mailroom

Description:

Proposed License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance: Staff Position on the License
Renewal Rule (10 CFR 54.4) As it Relates to the Station Blackout Rule (10 CFR
50.63)

Assigned To:

DLR

Contact:

KUO, PAO-TSIN, T

Special Instructions:

Craft reply to NEI for OD signature (most likely Jim Wiggins will sign for Dyer).
Coordinate answer with DE. Coordinate answer with OGC - Ed Williamson - and
get OGC concurrence on the answer.

Called DLR (Twana) on 3/5 at 4:09 p.m. for pick up



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Anthony R. Pietrangelo
VICE PRESIDENT
REGULATORY AFFAIRS

March 3, 2008

Mr. James E. Dyer
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Proposed License Renewal Interim Staff Guidance: Staff Position on the License Renewal Rule (10 CFR 54.4) as it relates to the Station Blackout Rule (10 CFR 50.63)

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Dyer:

On January 30, 2008, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and industry representatives met with the NRC staff to discuss a license renewal scoping issue related to the NRC Station Blackout (SBO) regulation. During this meeting we were provided with draft Interim Staff Guidance (ISG) that is intended to supersede guidance contained in ISG-2, "Staff Guidance on Scoping of Equipment Relied on to Meet the Requirements of the Station Blackout (SBO) Rule," dated April 1, 2002. The draft ISG would expand the scope of equipment to be included in license renewal in a manner that is inconsistent with plant licensing bases for the Station Blackout rule, inconsistent with past practice found acceptable for license renewal, and without adequate technical justification.

The draft ISG was prepared to address differences of opinion on SBO scoping boundaries that have arisen during license renewal application reviews. The currently applicable staff position contained in ISG-2 states, "Consistent with the requirements specified in 10 CFR 54.4(a)(3) and 10 CFR 50.63(a)(1), the plant system portion of the offsite power system should be included within the scope of license renewal."

ISG-2 provides practical guidance by establishing the scoping boundary at the plant systems boundary. This boundary is important since the design, operation and maintenance of systems beyond the plant systems boundary are often the responsibility of organizations different from and independent of the plant operator. In setting this boundary, ISG-2 acknowledges that the staff has historically relied upon the well-distributed, redundant, and interconnected nature of the grid to provide the necessary level of reliability to support nuclear power plant operations.

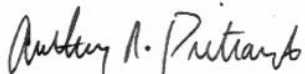
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The January 30, 2008 draft ISG withdraws the position contained in ISG-2 and expands the scoping boundary beyond the plant system portion of the offsite power system to include switchyard circuit breakers. This is a clear departure from previous license renewal reviews, where the NRC accepted scoping determinations based on the plant's current licensing basis (CLB) that did *not* include switchyard circuit breakers. The draft ISG introduces no new information to support the need for the change.

In summary, the industry believes that the current guidance provided in ISG-2 should be maintained. We do not see any safety or practical benefit to expanding the scope. Absent a regulatory analysis that justifies the change in the staff's position, the current guidance has been and remains sufficient to meet the scoping requirements for license renewal.

Please contact me or John Butler at (202) 739-8108; jcb@nei.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Pietrangelo

c: Mr. Bruce A. Boger, NRC
Dr. P. T. Kuo, NRC
NRC Document Control Desk