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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: **CPPU LTR (NEDC-33004P-A, Rev 4) Clarification of SE and LTR Statements**

GEH is providing the attached clarification of statements that are included in both the subject Licensing Topical Report (LTR) and it's associated NRC Safety Evaluation (SE). Since its 2003 NRC approval this LTR has been referenced in multiple licensee constant pressure power uprate (CPPU) submittals, which have been granted by the NRC. To avoid the potential for future confusion or misinterpretation by GEH, NRC or power uprate submittal licensees, GEH requests the NRC's review and confirmation of understanding regarding the attachment statements.

Informal contemporary discussions in 2003 with NRC staff members concluded with a similar understanding as set out in the clarification statements; however, GEH would like to have documented NRC concurrence to obviate any future confusion and potential misinterpretation.

GEH believes that this clarification request has no affect on any past or present NRC power uprate actions.

If there are any questions please contact Tim Abney at 910-675-6781 or myself.

Sincerely,

George B Stramback
Manager, Regulatory Services

Document Components
001 MFN 08-512 Letter Resubmittal.pdf

Project: 710

Attachment:

Clarification of LTR Statements

cc:	MC Honcharik	USNRC (with attachment)
	TE Abney	GEH Wilm (with attachment)
	BE Brown	GEH Wilm (with attachment)
	JF Harrison	GEH Wilm (with attachment)
	RE Kingston	GEH Wilm (with attachment)
	CAR 18412	

Attachment

Clarification of LTR Statements

The NRC Safety Evaluation for the CPPU LTR (NEDC-33004P-A, Rev 4) makes the following statements, which were also adapted and included in the Introduction of the LTR at the request of the NRC.

1.2.2 CPPU Approach

For the CPPU LTR, it is assumed that the only change to the plant licensing and design basis is an increase of up to 20 percent over the 100 percent Original Licensed Thermal Power (OLTP). The CPPU approach generically dispositions, defers to the standard reload or fuel introduction process, simplifies, or limits some of the safety analyses and system performance evaluations used to support operation at the higher power level. Licensees proposing to reference this LTR as a basis for a power uprate license amendment request, and also, proposing to obtain a license amendment to incorporate one or more of the plant changes listed below must first request and obtain a license amendment for the associated change prior to the start of the staff review of the power uprate request that references this LTR.

- *No increase in maximum normal operating reactor dome pressure*
- *No increase to maximum licensed core flow*
- *No increase to currently licensed MELLLA or MEOD upper boundaries*
- *No change to source term methodology*
- *No new fuel product line introduction*
- *No change to fuel cycle length*
- *No additions to currently licensed operational enhancements*

The one exception is with regards to a source term methodology change. A licensee may submit and the NRC staff will review a source term methodology change, in lieu of the analysis in Section 9.2 of the CPPU LTR, concurrent with the power uprate request, if the source term submittal supports operation at the uprated power level. Licensees proposing to utilize fuel designs other than GE fuel, up through GE 14 fuel, may not reference the CPPU LTR as a basis for their power uprate since the CPPU LTR process applies only to GE fuel and GE accident analysis methods. However, such licensees may reference the CPPU LTR for areas other than those involving reactor systems and fuel issues which are not impacted by the fuel design.

The CPPU power/flow operating map is an extension of the current MELLLA or MEOD operating map. Therefore, the CPPU LTR and the safety evaluation are applicable only to plants that are currently licensed to operate with the MELLLA or the MEOD operational margin improvement option. A typical power/flow map showing the CPPU change in allowable operating conditions is shown on Figure 1-1 of the LTR.

The literal NRC statement "… changes listed below must first request and obtain a license amendment for the associated change prior to the start of the staff review …." suggests that all changes must be made prior to a CPPU license application. Clearly, this was not intended to require all of these changes before CPPU nor to prohibit a licensee from making any of these changes after CPPU, but rather it was intended to limit concurrent changes during a CPPU application review. The literal interpretation is inconsistent with the bulleted statements themselves and with the stated exception

regarding the source term methodology. In addition, the bulleted items are stated in a negative context of "• *No increase …,* • *No increase …,* • *No change …,"* which do not agree with the syntax of the introductory paragraph. This grammatical inconsistency does not affect the technical meaning of the bulleted items, but may be confusing to future readers (e.g., GEH, NRC, or licensees).

The following clarifications reflect the intended meaning and the acceptable timing of license amendment requests for the "bulleted" items.

Always Before CPPU

The NRC approval to operate with the ARTS/MELLLA or the MEOD operational margin improvement option must precede the CPPU application. The NRC approval for the ARTS/MELLLA or the MEOD license changes should be complete prior to the submittal of the CPPU SAR.

Coincident With CPPU

A licensee may submit a source term methodology change, in lieu of the analysis in Section 9.2 (Design Basis Accidents) of the plant CPPU SAR, concurrent with the power uprate request, if the source term submittal supports operation at the uprated power level.

Before or After CPPU

The licensee may submit applications covering the following items either before or after the CPPU.

- Increase in maximum normal operating reactor dome pressure
- Increase to maximum licensed core flow
- Change to source term methodology (may be submitted Coincident with CPPU, see discussion above)
- New fuel product line introduction
- Change to fuel cycle length
- Additions to currently licensed operational enhancements

For license change requests on the above items that are submitted before CPPU, the NRC approval should be complete prior to the submittal of the CPPU SAR. For those items that are submitted after CPPU, the NRC approval for the CPPU should be complete prior to the submittal of the above items.

Always After

The increase in the licensed MELLLA or MEOD upper boundaries (MELLLA+) must occur following the power uprate. The NRC approval for the CPPU should be complete prior to the submittal of MELLLA+ upper boundary change.