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D. Hooper, Acting Chairman
STARS Integrated Regulatory Affairs Group
P.O. Box 411, Burlington, Kansas 66839

STARS-09015

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November 5, 2009

November 12, 2009 (12:10pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

STRATEGIC TEAMING AND RESOURCE SHARING (STARS)
Comments on Performance-Based Emergency Core
Cooling System Acceptance Criteria
(RIN 3150-AH42)

- Reference: 1) 74 FR 40765, Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria, dated August 13, 2009.
2) Letter from James H. Riley, NEI, to Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, dated October 27, 2009, Subject: RIN 3150-AH42, Comments on Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria.

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Strategic Teaming and Resource Sharing (STARS)¹ alliance appreciates this opportunity to submit the attached comments associated with the proposed "Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria" rulemaking (Ref. 1). STARS endorses the comments submitted separately by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) (Ref. 2). Additional STARS-specific comments are provided in the enclosure to this letter.

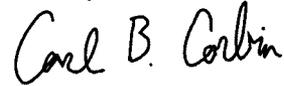
¹ STARS consists of thirteen plants at seven stations operated by Luminant Power, AmerenUE, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, STP Nuclear Operating Company, Arizona Public Service Company, and Southern California Edison.

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Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 620-364-4041, dihooper@wcnoc.com, or Jacques Vandebroek, at 760-484-7556, jacques.vandebroek@sce.com.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carl B. Corbin in black ink.

D. Hooper, Acting Chairman
STARS Integrated Regulatory Affairs Group

Enclosure: Comments on Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS)
Acceptance Criteria

Enclosure**Comments on Performance-Based Emergency Core
Cooling System (ECCS) Acceptance Criteria**

STARS endorses the comments provided by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). This enclosure provides STARS-specific comments on the proposed Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria.

1. The proposed rulemaking will force licensees with Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) Peak Centerline Temperature (PCT) very close to the limit and high equivalent cladding reacted (ECR) to re-evaluate the ECCS performance with a Best Estimate Method instead of the current Appendix K method. This, in turn, will result in licensees having to incur significant expenses for re-evaluation and licensing.

Since the proposed rule states that "sufficient safety margin exists for operating reactors," performing new analysis to support the new rule will provide no safety benefit. If resources are diverted from projects that provide real safety benefit to comply with this new rule, the potential exists that the new rule will have an adverse effect on safety.

Therefore, STARS recommends that an exemption be granted to licensees who currently have conservative Appendix K Analysis of Record.

2. The proposed rulemaking requires additional crud monitoring such as inspections every refueling outage. This requirement is unnecessary since some licensees, who had observed development of crud layer in the past, have already established crud prevention and protection programs which implement adequate core design and operational chemistry controls. These licensees have also confirmed their crud models by verification inspections during outages following the occurrence of crud formation. Thus, STARS believes that, providing an accurate and adequate crud model and established prevention program exists, crud monitoring does not increase the defense-in-depth, and an exemption should be granted to these licensees with regard to additional crud monitoring.
3. Including the effects of crud in the LOCA analyses is inconsistent with similar evaluation rules for non-LOCA analyses. Current core design and operation must comply with the criteria for fuel listed in the Standard Review Plan (SRP) Section 4, and is reviewed for compliance in the accident analysis. It is therefore inappropriate to require the inclusion of crud explicitly in the LOCA accident analysis. The requirements regarding inclusion of the effects of crud in the LOCA analysis should be removed from the rule.
4. The proposed reporting requirements of LOCA PCT and ECR changes and errors impose a burden without benefit on the licensee and should, therefore, be removed from the proposed rule.

Rulemaking Comments

From: carl.corbin@luminant.com
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 1:23 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Cc: Miller, Barry
Subject: RIN 3150-AH42 STARS-09015 Comments on Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria
Attachments: STARS-09015 Comments on Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria.pdf

The STARS Alliance submits the attached comments on the Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria (Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) (RIN 3150-AH42).

The comments were also submitted via the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange

Thanks,
Carl Corbin
Acting Manager, STARS Regulatory Affairs

carl.corbin@luminant.com office 254-897-0121

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Fri, 6 Nov 2009 00:27:12 -0600 (CST)
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From: <carl.corbin@luminant.com>
To: <Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov>
CC: <barry.miller@nrc.gov>
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