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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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COMMISSION BRIEFING ON THE
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
Rockville, Maryland

Friday, June 2, 1989

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 a.m., Lando W. Zech, Jr., Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

LANDO W. ZECH, JR., Chairman of the Commission
THOMAS M. ROBERTS, Commissioner
KENNETH C. ROGERS, Commissioner
KENNETH M. CARR, Commissioner
JAMES R. CURTISS, Commissioner

STAFF AND PRESENTERS SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

SAMUEL J. CHILK, Secretary
WILLIAM C. PARLER, General Counsel
CHARLES E. ROSS
THOMAS MURLEY
JAMES TAYLOR
MARK REINHART
DAVID C. FISCHER

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

9:50 a.m.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

We apologize for the delay. In fact, our utilities around here may be telling us something, I'm not sure.

This morning the Commission will be briefed by representatives of the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation concerning the status of the Technical Specifications Improvement Program. The Commission was last briefed on this subject on January 6, 1989 and we've recently received an excellent status report on this subject dated May the 30th, 1989.

After the meeting in January, the Commission requested the staff to provide this additional briefing specifically to address implementation and results of the Technical Specification Improvement Program, including the status of the proposed final policy statement on Technical Specification Improvements and the adequacy of the criteria developed by the staff and published in the interim policy statement on Technical Specification Improvements.

This meeting is an information meeting today. I understand that copies of the slides are available at the entrance to the room.

Do any of my fellow Commissioners have any comments to make before we begin? If not, Mr. Taylor, you may proceed.

MR. TAYLOR: Good morning, sir.

The staff, in briefing you on this, would emphasize that the process and what is going on, and the overall goal, is to improve operational safety which, of course, is one of our major goals on your part and the staff for operating reactors. And so the work that has been going on to resolve the complexities and some of the issues and testing and so forth is all geared to keep in mind that behind it is to improve operational safety.

And with that introduction, I'll ask Dr. Murley to commence the briefing.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much.

Dr. Murley, you may proceed.

DR. MURLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When we were here in January briefing the Commission, I sensed some concerns on the part of the Commission; three in particular that I want to address up front.

First was kind of the slow pace of events. In fact, this is a long program. It's going to take still another four to five years before all of the TECH SPECs for all the plans are updated. We are basically—on—schedule. The pace of activities has recently picked up and Mark Reinhart will talk in detail about the details of those activities. But I want to make a point that we are not sitting and waiting for the final standard TECH SPECs. There are many improvements that we're making all along now in the current TECH SPECs that we have.

We've issued five generic letters approving line-item improvements. For example, allowing utilities to take the organization charts out of their TECH SPECs. That is now a line-item improvement that they come in and do right now.

We've also issued eight topical reports, which allow certain improvements in TECH SPEC's surveillance testing intervals and that sort of thing. And as of April of this year, we had had 123 requests for improvements of those types, and we've issued 66 approvals and 57 were still under review, most likely will be approved. So we are moving ahead on improvements, not waiting for the standard TECH SPECs package.

A second concern that the Commission had, I believe, was the backlog of TECH SPEC amendments that is in our action file. And that is a concern, and we have taken some significant management actions in the last five months to improve that, one of which was a task force that I put in place starting in March. So for the last three months, March, April and May, this task force has been looking at ways to improve the backlog. And I can report today that we've made significant progress.

Of the 285 TECH SPECs amendments that were over two years old, some of these go back to the early 1970s and very, very old, we've taken action on 249 of those, which is 87 percent. There are 36 remaining and we believe that of those 36, 21 will be completed this month. So there will be about 15 of the 285 original TECH SPEC amendments over two years old, there will be 15 only, we call them the "hard core tough ones," that will remain probably for yet a couple more months to complete. So I think we have made progress on cleaning up the backlog and we have a paper coming to the Commission that's going to explain how we'll keep it cleaned up.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Of those 249, how many were actually completed and how many of them were sent

back for other information or returned to the issuer or something?

DR. MURLEY: Yes, I don't have a firm estimate, but the staff tells me they think about 75 percent we acted on positively. And the others we either sent back or we needed more information on those.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Okay.

DR. MURLEY: The Commission also had asked on how were we going to respond to all these applications when they do come in? And I don't have the organization yet in place for that, but the plans are that we'll have a separate branch, that is probably the current branch that we have but it'll be beefed up to act on the standard TECH SPECs when they come in so that we can act expeditiously when they come in.

Finally, there was a question on the part of the Commission, I thought, about working closely with industry. We are, in fact, working, I feel, very well, very closely with industry. The staff tells me they interact almost weekly by phone and probably monthly meetings with NUMARC and the owners groups on the standard TECH SPECs. In addition, I meet with the NUMARC executive group probably once every few months

to make sure that this program stays on track. I recently, I would say within the last month, met with the group again and Murray Adleman chairs it for NUMARC. And they seemed to be pleased that things are generally on track. So we intend to keep it that way.

So with those introduction remarks, then I'll turn it over to Mark Reinhart.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Before we do that, Dr. Murley, let me just say from my personal prospective I really appreciate the leadership you've show in this program because I do think your personal involvement is the reason we really are making progress now. And I know it's taken some of your time, as well as your people, but I really do believe that your personal involvement and your willingness to tackle this problem, and it is a big problem and it has been for some time, frankly has been a big part, anyway, of why we're starting to make real progress. And I appreciate that effort.

DR. MURLEY: And we're committed to wrestle this down until we've got it fixed for once and for all.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Well, I appreciate that. And again, I appreciate your own involvement in it because I know that you have many, many

responsibilities and this is only one other one. But we are making progress and I appreciate your efforts in that regard.

All right, Mr. Reinhart, you may continue. Proceed.

MR. REINHART: Could we have slide 2, please? (Slide 2.)

The Technical Specifications Improvement Program with the goal of improving operational safety is implementing the Commission's interim policy statement of February 1987 by using three aspects: development of new standard technical specifications, a parallel program for line-item improvements and other supporting activities. We feel we're making significant progress in each of those areas.

On the next slide we see the status of the development of the new standard technical specifications. If we could have 3, please? (Slide).

Based on the staff's report, commonly called the Split Report, which gave the staff's conclusions on which limiting conditions for operation of the current standard technical specifications would be included in the new standard technical specifications, and which of those requirements may be relocated to licensee control documents. Based on that report,

industry proposed to offer the staff new STS by March of 1989. While industry was working on those proposed new STS, the staff developed a process and an ambitious schedule which would review and issue an SER on each of those documents ten months following a submittal. And our slide shows the dates that we received the submittal from each of the owners groups, the most recent -- the main bulk of the submittal came in last night. And based on those submittals, our SERs are scheduled for February through April, 1990.

The first step of the staff's process is to perform an acceptance review where we look at the submittal and determine if we have enough information to start that review. We've completed that review for the Westinghouse submittal and are almost through the B&W and the General Electric or BWR submittals.

Based on the Westinghouse acceptance review, we accepted the document, however there were a number of proposed changes that went beyond what we anticipated and within complete justification, we felt that we had to look into that a little bit before we could absolutely determine the impact on our schedule. We believe at this point, with Westinghouse's response, we've been able to or will be able to absorb that and still meet our February 1990 SER date.

The Combustion Engineering owners group submittal will go into an acceptance review starting next week.

If we could see the next slide, (Side), these new STS will be implemented by plant specific conversions. I want to point out that we have five lead sites providing conversions and their submittals are due in September and October 1989, which is before he new STS are approved. What we hope to do is take the new STS and look at that implemented on an actual plant to try and learn between the theoretical and the applied, if you will, so that we can feed back anything that we learn into the new STS development.

The license amendments for those submittals are due nine months following their submittal. And we're looking at a June/July time frame of 1990. The five lead conversions: the sites for Westinghouse are North Anna 1 and 2; General Electric is Hatch 2 and Grand Gulf 1; Babock and Wilcox is Crystal River 3, and Combustion Engineering is San Onofre 2 and 3.

Westinghouse North Anna plant is planning in coming in to talk to the staff the week after next regarding their lead plant submittal. So even that's going on as the development of the new STS progresses.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Why did you pick two

sites for the GE?

MR. REINHART: The Hatch plant is a BWR-4 design and the Grand Gulf is a BWR-6 and GE felt that the differences in those two designs were significant enough that they wanted to test out their new STS on two sites.

COMMISSIONER CURTISS: Do you have a feel yet whether the substance of the changes will involve significant hazards considerations?

MR. REINHART: Do I have a feel for what?

COMMISSIONER CURTISS: If the subject of the amendment, in incorporating the technical specification changes, would involve significant hazards consideration?

MR. REINHART: I think our feeling now, Commissioner, is that it would not involve a significant hazards consideration.

Following the lead plants, we anticipate at this time 70 to 80 additional conversions between 1990 and 1995. To efficiently use our resources to review those submittals, the staff is working on a certification process by which the licensee would certify that he's adopted the new STS to the extent practicable and then he certifies that he's identified and justified all deviations from those new STS. The

staff's effort would involve an audit of the sample to verify that, in fact, he did adopt a new STS and then a technical review of all of the deviations and all of the justifications.

We anticipate a six to nine month review of those follow on conversions and the time difference is going to depend on the extent to which they adopt a new STS or take deviations. The more deviations, the longer it will be to review.

Go to the next slide, please, 5. (Slide). The specific request the Commission made in the staff requirements memo on the final policy statement, the first was the staff's intent to submit the final policy statement. We're scheduled to submit that on September 1, 1989 and our intent is to meet that date. However, we are learning and are continuing to learn during the review process, and from what we learn we may find some reasons that we could come in and ask for an extension for that time.

As far as the acceptability of the criteria based on what we're learning, the acceptability is still under review. During the Split Report we identified several issues that needed clarification on the proper implementation and application of the criteria, and they are included in that Split Report.

Our intent is to factor those into the final policy statement.

If we could identify one primary issue, it would be a need to clarify the criteria's need to capture active design features in operating restrictions that keep the plant within its design basis. We're talking about things like the pressure temperature limits for brittle fracture considerations, we're looking at things like the high pressure/low pressure interfaces between the primary and secondary decay heat removal system that would be actuated or allowed a permissive on pressure changes. Those particular items weren't clearly captured by the criteria and we feel we need to clarify that somehow.

As I said, we are learning as we are working with industry's proposal on the new STS. For example, we have two of the three submittals at least have taken some deviations from the Split Report as the staff issued it, and we'd like to take a look at their reasonings to see what motivated that action and we hope that we can learn from that.

Our priority over the next several months, we feel, has to be on the review of the new STS.

If we could go to the next slide, (Slide), we go to the second of three aspects of the TECH SPEC

improvement program. The first we discussed was development of the new STS. The second is the program for line-item improvements. As it was mentioned, we have approved five generic letters, eight topical reports. These are currently available for licensees to implement if they submit an amendment request. We expect to factor these and others that are under development now into the new STS that would eliminate any need for licensees to specifically adopt these amendments if they adopt a new STS.

Our next slide talks about our other supporting activities. That's slide 7. (Slide). The first of those is a guidance document for 10 CFR 50.59 which governs licensee safety evaluations for changes, tests or experiments they make to their facility. Industry proposed a guidance document, the staff commented on their second draft, returned comments to industry in May of 1989. We expect to see industry issue their document called NSAC 125 this month. And the staff expects to participate in some workshops with the industry on that document this month also.

Our activity on reduced testing, the staff has completed the second draft of that report. We expect to go to CRGR with that report this summer and we'll implement that in two ways. Overall, we expect

to take all those recommendations on reduced testing and put them into the new STS during the review period. We also were looking for a few of the more safety significant aspects and initiate two, three, four, whatever it comes out to, generic letters to get those aspects available to licensees as soon as possible.

The final aspect of our supporting activities is the risk based technical specification, which is more of a future development but currently there is a working group that's been established and it plans towards developing a prototype of a configuration and management system at an actual plant site and use that plant's current PRA in developing this program.

Slide 8, please. (Slide).

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Before you go to that one.

MR. REINHART: Sure.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: On reduced testing, is that going to encompass diesel generators and reduced testing of diesel generators?

MR. REINHART: Yes, sir. What we've done there, I might put up either backup slide B-2, it gives a few aspects of that. Could I have backup slide B-2, please. (Slide).

We start with the chronology of where we are in the development. But implementation, we mentioned that the changes are to be factored into the new STS and the more significant ones, as generic letters, one of the generic letters we already have in progress addresses what we've learned from the diesel generator activity. And between that generic letter and revision three to Reg. Guide 1.9 which research is currently working on, we believe that all of the benefits that we derive from that report will be included in those two documents. So we have an aggressive effort in addition to that report working on the diesel generator aspects.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER CARR: What time frame do you have on that revision to the Reg. Guide and generic letter on diesel?

MR. REINHART: The generic letter, we're looking for a fall time frame. The Rev 3 to Reg. Guide 1.9 we believe was probably looking towards summer to late summer.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right, let's proceed.

MR. REINHART: If we could go back to slide 8, please. (Slide). We feel that the Technical Specification Improvement Program is moving in the

right direction to improve operational safety and will result in more reliable and efficient plant operations. We feel that we've made and will continue to make significant progress in each of these three areas; development of the new STS, the parallel program for line-item improvements which will continue, and in bringing our supporting activities to completion.

That concludes the presentation.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Thank you very much.

DR. MURLEY: I have one point that I might add, Mr. Chairman. I probably should have mentioned it earlier. But it has to do with resources. And the Commission is, I think, properly concerned that we be organized as efficiently as we can be. We have some experience in recent conversion to TECH SPECs. We reviewed the Turkey Point 3 and 4 conversion to current standard TECH SPECs. And that required two calender years and one and a half staff years to do that review and conversion. Now, if you multiple that by the 70 to 80 conversions that we expect in 1990 to 1995, you see we're talking a large number of resources. So we do expect to organize ourselves to be more efficient. But, nonetheless, I think it's

still going to require additional resources and the budget -- the EDO budget that has been sent to you does include our estimated --

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: You mean it does?

DR. MURLEY: It does, yes, for fiscal '91. I just wanted to mention that.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Thank you very much. Does that conclude the staff briefing, Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: That concludes the staff's presentation.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Questions from my fellow Commissioners? Commissioner Roberts?

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I don't have any question, but a comment. I think this is a very important program. Unfortunately, it's not glamorous, it's not high profile, it's not solving an immediate problem that's gotten everybody's attention, but I think it is terribly important. And I hope that you will continue to provide good people to work on it, which you're doing now, and continue to provide the resources to get the job done. This is slow, long, hard work but it's terribly important. And again, it is not a glamorous job, per se, but it is terribly important. That's all I have.

DR. MURLEY: We have very good people --

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I think you do, but don't let the next crisis snatch these people away to put out the little brush fire. And that's going to happen, as you well know. I mean, there are going to be brush fires.

DR. MURLEY: I've resisted that and I understand your point exactly.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Okay. That's all I have.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you. Commissioner Carr?

COMMISSIONER CARR: Well, I'm encouraged by what appears to be significant progress and I compliment you on that. I'm a little -- I still don't have a feel for how many technical specs have actually been changed, say, in the last six months. When the backlog comes down, does that mean you've actually changed some technical specs?

DR. MURLEY: Yes. I don't have the latest statistics. As I said, of the 249 of the over two year old TECH SPECs that we've acted on, staff tells me about 75 percent of those. So that would be about 200 actually involved changes of those.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Okay.

DR. MURLEY: Now, in addition, one has to add the normal routine TECH SPECs that come in and are acted on within a matter of a few months. But we're putting them out.

COMMISSIONER CARR: Yes. I guess I'm feeling around for some kind of a score sheet where I can measure progress, but I'm not sure I want to make it meet it based just -- I don't want you to stop doing work to make a score sheet, but I'd feel comfortable if I knew how far you've come and how far you've got to go, you know. And other than that, I think, I certainly agree with Commissioner Roberts, it's one of my favorite programs. Progress is what I'm looking for.

I'm with the Chairman. For three years I've been hearing about we're over testing the diesels. So it seems like it'd be simple to just say, "Well, quit testing them so much."

MR. ROSS: But let me add something here.

COMMISSIONER CARR: We've got another year to go to say that, you know.

MR. ROSS: Let me add something to what Dr. Murley said about TECH SPEC amendments. NRR receives an excess of 1,000 technical specification amendment requests each year and we complete approximately that

same number of amendment requests each year. So there are a 1,000 coming in each year and we complete about a 1,000 each year.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Commissioner Rogers?

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: I just wanted to get a little more information on the relocation of cycle specific parameter limits. Can you tell me a little bit more about what that entails and how it relates to the need to capture active design features?

MR. REINHART: Yes, sir. The cycle specific parameters really focuses on what has come to be called a core operating limits report. And those are things like parameters that will change each refueling -- they're primarily nuclear. There are some others that aren't necessarily nuclear, but they're related and those type of things are what are going into this core operating limits report.

There's a couple of plants outside of this program, Oconee was the lead plant, has submitted a core operating limits report, has it approved, they're, in fact, the lead plant on that activity.

The new STS is building that in. We had a meeting just about two weeks ago with industry to discuss in detail what types of items could go in and what would stay out. Now that really is separate from

your question on the need to capture active design features. Those aren't limits that change cycle-to-cycle, but things like if you look at the pressure temperature curve. The way the industry first looked at that they go, "Wow, that's not an initial condition to a design basis accident." We said, "Well, wait a minute, that's to keep you from getting outside of the bounds so you won't have an accident in unanalyzed conditions." So there's really two different issues there.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes, I understand now what the difference is. I just couldn't tell from what happened before.

Could you say a little bit more about the risk based technical specs working group? Whose involved, what's the schedule for it and what it's really supposed to accomplish?

MR. REINHART: I have a backup slide for that. It's B-3, if we could look at that, please (Slide). Could we have backup slide B-3, please. Okay, there it is.

The risk based technical specifications work has a goal to develop a real time risk based configuration management system that looks at a plant and based on equipment that's out of service right now

what is the risk of doing a test or taking another piece of equipment out of service?

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Yes. Good.

MR. REINHART: Ed Butcher, who is here today, has established a working group to start some work on this. The working group includes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Science Applications International Corporation, three utilities have volunteered; Southern California Edison Company, Philadelphia Electric Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company. And that group plans to, first, resolve technical and institutional issues that are needed to get such a program in place, look at the costs involved and then to provide some guidance on practical issues, the software. How do we develop the software that's being developed today? What kind of hardware is involved? How can we have it interactive that we can get real time results? And they're really looking at having this prototype demonstration at an operating reactor that can put that into effect while the current TECH SPECs are still there, but still get a feel for what benefits will be derived.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: That strikes me as a very important program.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Excuse me. Can we

see the slide again? (Slide). How does Science Applications International Corporation function? Are they a consultant to the NRC?

MR. REINHART: I believe so. Maybe Ed could address that for us. Ed?

COMMISSIONER CARR: Imagine they developed the software.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Would you step to the microphone and identify yourself to the reporter, please?

MR. BUTCHER: My name is Ed Butcher. I was the former chief of the technical specifications branch and was involved with initiating this program.

Science Applications International, I guess it is now, is the primary contractor and consultant to the NRC in this program. This specific system is somewhat patterned after some systems which were developed, I guess, in the last couple of years in Europe but we, as a part of this program, went to Great Britain and observed their ESSM, essential system status monitor program, in operation there. It was a very impressive system.

It's principle value is that it gives you a real time estimate of the actual risk of the configuration that you happen to be in. It's not

based upon some theoretical projections of failure rates and of recurrence intervals for accident sequences. It's based upon the real configuration of the plant.

Such a system is also under development for the new generation of reactors that are planned by Rumania right now. Science Application in conjunction with funding through, I think it's the International Atomic Energy Agency is developing such a system to function as the technical specifications for that future generation of nuclear reactors as opposed to the deterministic system that we have now.

It is a very powerful system. I've seen it in operation, personally. Southern California Edison has an ad hoc version of this sort of an approach in place right now where they actually review the operating configurations that existed, say, over the last three months and they go back and take that data and rerun their PRA based upon actual configurations as opposed to theoretical assumed entries into different allowed outage times. And they find the peaks and valleys in risk that result from that and then they go back and review operations, operating procedures so that they outlaw those configurations in the future. When you do that, what you find is there

is a steady decline in risk from operation. This is one of those strange and unusual opportunities to have your cake and eat it, so to speak, at the same time. You can improve the availability, the reliability of the facility and at the same time reduce risk and you can show through rigorous evaluation that that has actually occurred.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I would think the utilities would be terribly interested in this?

MR. BUTCHER: Yes, sir, they are. We've had a great deal of interest and they've been willing to come forward and volunteer to participate in this program. We hope to be able to develop a pilot for it and actually demonstrate it in parallel with the existing technical specifications, as Mark Reinhart has indicated. And we think we can show that it will, in fact, improve safety over the current deterministic system of technical specifications. It's only in the last five -- I'd say five, seven, eight years that the technology of risk analysis and the hardware and the software have developed to the point where this is now a practical alternative.

COMMISSIONER CARR: But the improvement in safety comes from alerting you to possible things that could happen when you have a piece of equipment out

but right now you can't take all the time to analyze it?

MR. BUTCHER: Exactly. I can give you a very graphic example. One of the first things it will show you is--that you ought not be doing routine maintenance on the main feed water system at the same time you're doing it on auxiliary feed water system. That's almost common sense, but as a practical matter there's nothing in the current deterministic specs that deal with things like that. It would also tell you don't do diesel testing or maintenance at the same time that you're doing routine balance of plant testing in the switch yard. It would eliminate those kinds of scenarios that actually represent precursors to severe accidents. There are major implications in that area for programs and systems like this.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Is this an expensive operation to work out? Presumably, it's quite plant specific so that each plant has to go through an analysis. Is there anything else that we're doing and requiring in, say, the IPEs that could make for an economy of scale effort here so that the benefits of this could also be derived partly as a result of other work that has to be done as part of an IPE?

DR. MURLEY: We haven't totally thought it out, so I'll just have to give you my top-of-the-head answer. In order to implement this, it requires a PRA type of analysis. At least you have to know the systems and have a model for your plant. It could very well be that the type of analysis that is being gone through for the IPE, most of which will be a PRA, could form the basis for these kinds of risk based TECH SPECs in the future. We haven't taken that step yet because I think we're doing it kind of exactly the right way. Try it out on a couple of plants with a few volunteers, see how it work and then as it works-- I think this has two big applications. One is for future designs. I think we can move to it relatively quickly while their still preparing their TECH SPECs. And then as other plants develop PRAs, we might look to this to be the next phase, I would say maybe five to ten years from now.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: It's just that it has such an immediate application right now.

MR. TAYLOR: We all know about the air system and air system problems and the problems with compressors and backup air systems. And that's a perfectly good example of where this type of thing may begin to tell you the unexpected failure in

compressors that you're on your way to more risks than you need and that's a complex systemin many plants.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, it's a real aid to operators, I would think, in avoiding any difficulties. And it brings the whole plant together as a unit, in a sense. And it seems to me it's got all the good features that you really want.

MR. TAYLOR: And it will provide us with a more rational basis for limiting condition of operation outage times. Those times are usually just set by judgment, engineering judgment, many of which go back ten to 20 years, probably. But this methodology will allow us to have a rational basis for these times.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, just as Commissioner Roberts has praised the general program, which I also think is very important, it seems to me this is also extremely important. We didn't hear enough about it, I think. I think during your presentation I know you have a lot of other things to talk about, but I would want you to really keep pushing on that and to think of ways in which we can help to coordinate efforts so that there isn't a required duplication of effort to put this in in addition to an IPE; that somehow linking those two

together through our actions would make an awful lot of sense.

MR. TAYLOR: I might suggest that there be a Commission briefing sometime in the future when this working group gets a little more work done as to progress. And maybe we can arrange that at the appropriate time. It would be months before--specifically on this topic when it's sufficiently developed.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS: Well, I heard about this British system when I was in England a few weeks ago and I was very impressed with it. And it seemed to me that it's something worth pursuing.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Curtiss?

COMMISSIONER CURTISS: I don't have any questions.

CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Well, let me thank all of you for a very informative discussion this morning. I think that you can see the interest the Commission has on this subject, not only by having the meeting here, of course, follow on to the meeting we had in January, but also the questions and the

comments you've heard from the Commissioners to show our real interest in this program. And so we do commend the staff for your efforts and we are encouraged, I think, by the results we've seen today.

I think another Commission briefing here in the future, perhaps, focusing on some of the risk based issues and how they are applicable to the recommendations to the utilities as regards, for example, the specific testing that you pointed out and how we look at that in a more integrated sort of way rather than specific testing of systems. Those are very, very important matters, I think, and as we all know, could bear directly on the operation of the plant, safety and reliability both.

So I think as you described today, too, obviously significant additional work remains to be accomplished before all the safety benefits from this program can be realized at the plants, but I do think another briefing of the Commission in the future would be certainly appropriate. But I commend you for the continuing effort you've made and the hard work you've put into improving technical specifications. And it's so clear that the obvious safety and reliability benefits can result from this program, that it is worth all the effort that is going into it.

And I commend the utilities, also, who have volunteered to be part of this program. To me it's clearly in their best interest and not only theirs, but all the other utilities, too, can benefit from the results of this very fine effort.

I'd also encourage you to continue working with the industry towards the adoption of the uniform standard for performance of safety evaluations under our requirements in 10 CFR 50.59. That's also a very important effort, I think, and I would encourage you to continue your efforts in that regard, too.

Let me just conclude by saying, again, how much we appreciate, Mr. Taylor, your and Mr. Stello's leadership with Dr. Murley in this regard because this is a very important program. And as others have pointed out, it may not have some of the great interest of some of the other specific issues we get involved with, but it certainly directly impacts on safety of operations, reliability of operations, efficiency of operations. And I think that, again, this is why the Commission is so interested in making some progress in the technical specification program, not only per se, but as it relates and as it integrates to the entire operation of the power plants. So, again, I'm pleased at the efforts the

staff has made in this regard and I want you to assure yourself of the continuing Commission interest and involvement in this particular area.

Are there any other final comments from my colleagues? If not, thank you very much for an excellent presentation and excellent work.

We stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, the briefing was concluded at 10:33 a.m.)

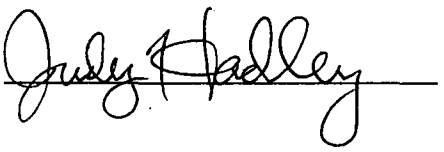
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

This is to certify that the attached events of a meeting of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: Briefing on Status of Technical Specifications Improvement Program
PLACE OF MEETING: Rockville, Maryland

DATE OF MEETING: June 2, 1989

were transcribed by me. I further certify that said transcription is accurate and complete, to the best of my ability, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing events.



Reporter's name: Trevor Goodchild

COMMISSION BRIEFING

ON THE

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

June 2, 1989

Mark Reinhart

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

GOAL: Improve Operational Safety

Commission's Interim Policy Statement: Feb 87

New Standard Technical Specifications (STS)

Parallel Program For Line-Item Improvements

Other Supporting Activities

NEW STS DEVELOPMENT

Split Report: May 1988

Proposed New STS:

Owners Group	Submittal Date	SER Date
W	Mar 30, 89	Feb 90
GE	May 8, 89	Mar 90
B&W	May 1, 89	Mar 90
CE	Jun 1, 89	Apr 90

PLANT-SPECIFIC CONVERSIONS TO NEW STS

Five Lead Conversions:	Submittal Date	License Amendment
	Sept/Oct 89	June/July 90

Follow On Plants:

Anticipate 70 To 80 Conversions From 1990 to 1995

FINAL POLICY STATEMENT

Submit To Commission: September 1989

Criteria:

Acceptability Still Under Review

Clarification Provided In Split Report

Clarify The Need To Capture Active Design Features And Operating Restrictions That Keep The Plant Within Its Design Basis

Learning From Owners Groups Proposed New STS

PROGRAM FOR LINE-ITEM IMPROVEMENTS

Approved:

Extensions For Specified RPS and ESFAS AOT's and STI's

Revisions Of General Requirements - Sections 3.0 and 4.0

Relocation Of Organization Charts

Relocation Of Fire Protection System Requirements

Relocation Of Cycle-Specific Parameter Limits

Relocation Of Radiological Effluent Requirements (RETS)

OTHER SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Guidance Document For 10 CFR 50.59
(Licensee Safety Evaluations)

Reduced Testing

Risk-Based Technical Specifications

OVERALL PROGRAM IMPACT AND PROGRESS

Improve Operational Safety

New STS Development

Parallel Program For Line-Item Improvements

Other Supporting Activities

REDUCED TESTING

Draft Report Issued	November 1988
Staff Review Complete:	February 1989
Second Draft Issued:	March 1989
Staff Review Complete:	May 1989
CRGR Review:	Summer 1989
Issue NUREG:	Summer 1989

Implementation:

- Changes To Be Factored Into New STS
- More Safety Significant Changes As Generic Letters
- Diesel Generator To Be Separated From Report
  - Revision To Regulatory Guide 1.9
  - Generic Letter

RISK-BASED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

GOAL: Develop A Real-Time, Risk-Based, Configuration Management System

Working Group Established:

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Science Applications International Corporation
- Southern California Edison Company
- Philadelphia Electric Company
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Plans:

- Resolve Technical And Institutional Issues
- Identify Cost Elements
- Provide Guidance On Practical Issues
  - Software
  - Prototype Demonstration At An Operating Reactor