

PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 18, 1994

Mr. Alex Marion
Manager, Technical Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 300
1776 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-3706

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PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO.

Dear Mr. Marion:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 15, 1994, and the accompanying copies of the final Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) Industry Application Guide for Evaluation of Thermo-Lag 330-1 Fire Barrier Systems. As we discussed with NEI during the senior management meeting of July 26, 1994, we do not intend to review and approve the NEI application guide. However, the test results appear to provide a substantial data base to aid in the plant-specific assessment of fire barrier configurations. Therefore, we will review the application of the guide by individual licensees on a plant-specific basis.

In your letter, you state that individual utility efforts to address installed barriers could not reasonably proceed or be concluded until ampacity derating issues are defined and addressed. You reiterated this view during the senior management meeting of July 26, 1994. There are unresolved technical issues regarding ampacity derating. However, it is our view that these issues can be resolved independently of the fire endurance issues and that they should not delay the resolution of the Thermo-Lag fire barrier performance issue. We have scheduled meetings with Texas Utilities Electric Company and with Tennessee Valley Authority to be held at NRC headquarters on August 30, 1994. These meetings will focus on the issues that remain to be resolved on a plant-specific basis. Resolution of these issues should support other licensees in their efforts to address and resolve ampacity concerns at their plants.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Steven West at (301) 504-1220.

Sincerely,

for J.E. Lyons
Conrad E. McCracken, Chief
Plant Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

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Original signed by

Conrad E. McCracken, Chief
Plant Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

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