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Mr. Terry A. Pickens, Chairman
BWR Owners Group
Northern States Power Corporation
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Pickens:

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (GE) TOPICAL REPORTS NEDC-30844,
"BWR OWNERS GROUP RESPONSE TO NRC GENERIC LETTER 83-28,"
AND NEDC-30851P, "TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION IMPROVEMENT
ANALYSIS FOR BWR RPS"

We have completed our review of the subject topical reports submitted by the BWR Owners Group by letters dated January 31, 1985 and May 31, 1985. Enclosure 1 provides our Safety Evaluation Report (SER). Our evaluation applies only to the matters described in the report.

We find that NEDC-30844 provides an acceptable basis for resolving Item 4.5.3 of Generic Letter 83-28, subject to confirmation of the plant-specific applicability of the generic analysis. Therefore, upon receipt of a letter with this confirmation from each licensee or applicant Item 4.5.3 of Generic Letter 83-28 will be closed out for that licensee or applicant.

Based on our review of NEDC-30851P, we find that it provides an acceptable generic basis for supporting plant-specific Technical Specification changes related to the reactor protection system (RPS) for plants using a relay RPS, subject to the conditions noted herein. We also have reviewed the topical report regarding Technical Specification (TS) changes on the solid-state RPS. We needed and obtained additional information for our review. The results of our review of the solid-state RPS reliability analyses will be presented in a future staff SER.

As noted in the enclosed SER, each applicant for proposed Technical Specification changes for individual plants must:

1. Confirm the applicability of the generic analyses for NEDC-30851P to its plant.
2. Demonstrate by use of current drift information provided by the equipment vendor or plant-specific data, that the drift characteristics for instrumentation used in the RPS channels in the plant are bounded by the assumptions used in NEDC-30851P when the functional test interval is extended from monthly to quarterly.

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3. Confirm that the differences between the RPS in the plant and the RPS of the generic analysis plant were included in the plant-specific analysis using the procedures of Appendix K of NEDC-30851P, or provide plant-specific analyses to demonstrate that there is no appreciable change in RPS availability or public risk.

Enclosure 2 provides an acceptable format for proposed TS changes based on NEDC-30851P. Our review of plant-specific changes will consider only the applicability of the topical report to the specific plant. Because the proposed changes are voluntary and subject to the confirmatory actions noted above, we do not intend to issue a revision to the Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for BWR plants at this time. Eventually the STS will be revised to incorporate these changes as part of the NRC program for TS improvements.

In accordance with procedures established in NUREG-0390, "Topical Reports Review Status," we request that the GE/BWR Owners Group publish accepted versions of NEDC-30851P, both proprietary and non-proprietary, within 3 months of receipt of this letter. The accepted versions should (1) incorporate this letter and the enclosed Safety Evaluation Report between the title page and the abstract and (2) include an -A (designated accepted) following the report identification symbol.

Should our acceptance criteria or regulations change so that our conclusions as to the acceptability of the reports are no longer valid, the BWR Owners Group and/or the applicants referencing these topical reports will be expected to revise and resubmit their respective documentation, or submit justification for the continued applicability of the topical reports without revision of their respective documentation.

Sincerely,

Ashok C. Thadani

Ashok C. Thadani, Assistant Director
for Systems
Division of Engineering & Systems Technology
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures

1. Safety Evaluation Report
2. Format for Technical Specification Changes

