



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

December 8, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: S. H. Sniezek, Assistant Director for Field
Coordination, DROI, IE

FROM: K. R. Goller, Assistant Director for Operating
Reactors, DOR, NRR

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER
RATIO (MCPR)

In response to your memorandum dated October 7, 1977 on the above subject, we have reviewed the requirement that a licensee restore MCPR to within the required limits in two hours or be in cold shutdown within the succeeding 36 hours. We find that the above requirement resulted from our February 1976 letter to BWR licensees which requested them to propose uniform remedial action statements for their Technical Specifications in the event that limits for MCPR, Minimum Average Planar Linear Heat Generation Rate (MAPLHGR), or LHGR were violated.

The Standard Technical Specifications (STS) currently require only a reduction in power until MCPR is restored. Existing "custom" MCPR Technical Specifications, which were the result of our February 1976 letter, are more severe. However, this severity is more hypothetical than real since no reactor facility, to our knowledge, has had to shutdown as a result of a MCPR violation. If you are aware of any facilities that have had to shutdown as a result of a MCPR violation, please provide us the appropriate information.

With regard to implementation of the STS position, we are continuing our program of converting existing "custom" Technical Specifications to STS (at the initiative of the licensees); Nine Mile Point is currently undergoing this process. Upon adoption of the STS by Nine Mile Point and other operating BWR facilities, the modified MCPR requirement (resulting in a power reduction rather than a shutdown requirement) together with a number of other improvements, will be implemented.

Karl R. Goller

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