

December 8, 2000

Ralph E. Beedle
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer,
Nuclear Generation
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON STUDY OF RISK-INFORMED CHANGES TO THE
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50 (OPTION 3) AND
RECOMMENDATIONS ON RISK-INFORMED CHANGES TO 10 CFR 50.44
(COMBUSTIBLE GAS CONTROL)

Dear Mr. Beedle:

Your letter of November 17, 2000, to Chairman Meserve has been referred to me for response. Your letter provided perspectives on several issues discussed in SECY-00-0198. These issues include:

- backfit considerations
- selective implementation
- the "framework" for risk-informing technical requirements
- the inclusion of new special treatment requirements in Option 3.

The first two issues, backfit considerations and selective implementation, are currently under consideration by the Commission, including the views expressed in your letter. In regard to the remaining two issues, the framework provides the staff guidance for identifying and developing risk-informed changes to the technical requirements so that this effort is performed in a uniform, consistent and defensible manner. It is essentially complete and will only be refined based upon experience. Thus, we believe it is not detracting from OPTION 3, but rather providing consistency and direction. In SECY-99-264, risk-informed alternatives to the technical aspects of special treatment requirements is part of the scope of Option 3 which the Commission approved. This effort is being closely linked and integrated with the work being performed under Option 2.

We will continue to hold public meetings and public workshops as we move forward so that all stakeholders are informed of our progress and have the opportunity to provide input in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or contact Mary Drouin (301 415-6675, email mxd@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,
/RA MVFederline for/

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

* Previously concurred.

OFFICE	PRAB/DRAA/RES		PRAB/DRAA/RES		DRAA/RES	
NAME	*MDrouin		*MCunningham mxd for		*TKing	
DATE	12/01/00		12/01/00		12/01/00	

OFFICE	NRR		NRR	D/RES	
NAME	*DMatthews		*SCollins bws for		AThadani mvf for
DATE	12/05/00		12/06/00	12/07/00	/ /00

NAME: g:\mary's letter to nei on secy-198 dec 00.wpd

Distribution: DRAA Chron PRAB r/f M. Drouin r/f M. Drouin M. Cunningham T. King D. Matthews S. Collins
A. Thadani

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PARALLEL CONCURRENCE

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

DATE:12/01/00

LETTER TO: Ralph Beedle

FROM: A. Thadani

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(COMBUSTIBLE GAS CONTROL)

ORIGINATOR/SECRETARY: ROOM NO./BLDG: T10 C 24

Patty Nielsen

PHONE NO.: 415-6189

<u>SIGN AND/OR</u>	<u>CONCUR</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. MDrouin	_____	<u> / / </u>
2. MCunningham	_____	<u> / / </u>
3. TKing	_____	<u> / / </u>
4. D. Matthews	_____	<u> / / </u>
4. SCollins	_____	<u> / / </u>
5. AThadani	_____	<u> / / </u>

DUE TO RES 12/14/00

ACTION:	CIRCULATED:	FOR YOUR INFO:
APPROVAL:	COMMENT:	SEE ME:
AS REQUESTED:	NOTE & RETURN:	PREPARE REPLY:
COORDINATION:	PER CONVERSATION:	
