



TRICONEX

INVENSYS PROCESS AUTOMATION

15345 Barranca Parkway
Irvine, California 92618
United States of America

Telephone +1 949 885 0700
Facsimile +1 949 753 9101
<http://www.triconex.com>

February 23, 2001

Document Control Desk
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Nuclear 1E Qualification of the TRICON TMR Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) –
Qualification of Recent TRICON Equipment Upgrades

- References: 1. Letter, T. Martel (Triconex) to NRC, October 2, 2000, subject; Nuclear 1E
Qualification of the TRICON TMR PLC – Final Qualification Summary Report
Submittal
2. Project Number 709

Gentlemen:

In our previous submittals, we requested NRC review and generic approval of the TRICON PLC for use in safety related applications in nuclear power plants. In Reference 1, we provided the results of our qualification testing and analyses in our final summary (topical) report, Triconex Document No. 7286-545. The report identified the TRICON PLC system, Version 9.3.1, and application programming software TriStation 1131, Version 2.0, as the Triconex products for which we requested approval.

Since initiating efforts to qualify the TRICON, our product versions have continued to evolve through our ongoing product improvement process. TRICON Version 9.5.2 and TriStation 1131 Version 3.0.1 are currently in production at Triconex and now represent our marketing focus. These later versions provide identical or improved functionality over the previous versions. Accordingly, we would like to request that these later versions be approved as part of the SER for the TRICON. We believe that, by addressing the most recent product versions at this time, it will significantly reduce NRC and Triconex resources which would otherwise be required to process a qualification update submittal at a future date.

As part of our previous submittals and meetings, you have reviewed documentation pertaining to Version 9.3.1 of the TRICON. Within 30 days, we intend to provide to you a report characterizing all significant differences between our updated product versions (TRICON V9.5.2 versus V9.3.1 and TriStation 1131 V3.0.1 versus V2.0) and a discussion of any impact on performance or safety. Your review and incorporation of the updated products in the SER will be requested.

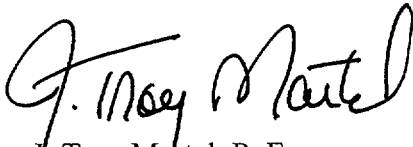
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It is also our intention to establish unique "Nuclear" model designations for the Triconex modules encompassed in the 1E qualification. This will provide our nuclear customers with the ability to clearly distinguish between nuclear qualified modules and the commercial versions. The submittal referenced above will include a revised list of modules/firmware encompassed by the V9.5.2 upgrades along with the corresponding nuclear model number designations.

We look forward to further discussing this matter and any other issues that may arise in your review of the TRICON qualification. If you have any questions, please contact me at (281) 360-6401 or Mr. Michael Phillips at (949) 885-0711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Troy Martel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." and last name "Martel" clearly legible.

J. Troy Martel, P. E.

Triconex Nuclear Qualification Project Director

cc: L. Raynard Wharton, NRC
P. Loeser, NRC

bcc:

J. Naser, EPRI
W. Sotos, STPNOC
E. Claude, MPR
T. Hurst, Hurst Tech.
M. Fortini, Foxboro
M. Phillips, Triconex
J. McCann, Triconex
G. McDonald, Triconex
Nuclear Qualification File