



No objection. The staff should conduct a timely review of the industry's draft program package and publish the Regulatory Issue Summary regarding steam generator tube integrity.

Nils J. Diaz
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04/05/00

POLICY ISSUE

(NEGATIVE CONSENT)

March 30, 2000

SECY-00-0078

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS AND PLANS FOR REVISING THE STEAM GENERATOR TUBE
INTEGRITY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE:

This paper informs the Commission of the staff's progress with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the nuclear power industry on the industry's initiative, NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines." The paper describes plans for related NRC activities that will be implemented unless directed otherwise. Implementation of the guidelines through the restructured regulatory framework will provide reasonable assurance that licensees will maintain steam generator tube integrity, while providing added flexibility to licensees to achieve this objective in a cost-effective manner. On the basis of the progress made as of February 2000 and assuming the staff does not have any significant issues with the final submitted version of the industry initiative (submitted February 4, 2000), it is the staff's intent to cancel work on draft Generic Letter (GL) 98-XX, "Steam Generator Tube Integrity." NRC interactions with NEI and the industry on this effort have been conducted in a public forum and opportunity for other stakeholder input will also be provided during the staff's review of this effort.

REC'D BY NJD -

BACKGROUND:

In SECY-95-131, "Continuance of Proposed Rulemaking on Steam Generator Maintenance and Surveillance," dated May 22, 1995, the staff informed the Commission that it intended to continue with the development of a rule addressing steam generator tube integrity. The rule would have required development and implementation of a risk-informed, performance-based program to maintain steam generator tube integrity. Existing programs were thought to be prescriptive, out of date, and not fully effective for purposes of ensuring steam generator tube integrity. However, following a regulatory analysis, the staff concluded that existing regulations provided an adequate regulatory basis for dealing with steam generator issues, but that steam generator tube surveillance technical specification (TS) requirements should be upgraded to maintain steam generator tube integrity.

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BACKGROUND

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