

From: Peter Tam
To: Dennis E Vandeputte; John J Dosa; Steven Leonard
Date: 10/28/03 2:43PM
Subject: Request for Conference Call Re. NMP2 Proposed SLCS Amendment **(TAC MC0595)**

Dennis:

We are reviewing the subject amendment application dated 8/28/03. Our reviewer, Matthew Langschwager, has developed the following draft questions. Please set up a conference call with me to discuss these questions and address their disposition:

1. In Section 2.0, PROPOSED CHANGE, page 2 of 7, and again in section 4.0 TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, page 4 of 7, the licensee refers to a minor adjustment being made to one of the coordinates of the Acceptable Operation region in Figure 3.1.7-1. This concerns a lower coordinate increase from 4275 gallons to 4288 gallons. The licensee cites different roundoff techniques from a prior calculation as justification for this change. The NRC staff believes that a quantitative explanation may be needed, elaborating the differences between the prior calculation and the present calculation.

Additionally, if the aforementioned change is approved, the staff expects USAR Figure 9.3-18 be revised to reflect the coordinate change, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.71.

2. In Section 4.0, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS, the final paragraph of page 4 mentions that Technical Specification SR 3.1.7.2 and SR 3.1.7.3 require verification that the temperature of the SLC system sodium pentaborate solution is greater than or equal to 70 degree F. Earlier on page 3 of 7, the licensee states that "[t]he GNF analysis demonstrates that, with a minimum concentration equivalent to 780 ppm natural boron at 68 degree F, sufficient shutdown margin is maintained in the reactor to assure that the SLC system design function of bringing the reactor to a subcritical condition is achieved."

(a) The NRC staff believes these two statements do not clearly express the minimum temperature necessary for the SLC sodium pentaborate solution. Please explain this discrepancy.

(b) What is the quantifiable definition of a "sufficient" shutdown margin?

This e-mail aims solely to prepare you and others for the proposed conference call. It does not formally convey an NRC staff position, nor does it formally request for additional information.

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From: Peter Tam

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CC: Matthew Langschwager; Theodore Tjader