

October 3, 2005

Mr. Alex Marion, Senior Director
Engineering/Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: NEI 97-06, STEAM GENERATOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES, REVISION 2

Dear Mr. Marion:

By letter dated September 9, 2005 (ML052710007), you provided NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines," Revision 2 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's information. The NRC staff agrees with your observation that NEI 97-06, Revision 2, is consistent with Technical Specification Task Force Traveler (TSTF) 449, Revision 4, "Steam Generator Tube Integrity." As you know, this latter document was approved by the staff on May 2, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML051160106) and was published in the Federal Register on May 6, 2005 (Volume 70, Number 87, Page 24126-24127).

The adoption of TSTF-449 by all pressurized water reactors (PWRs) will result in an improved regulatory framework. We hope that you encourage all PWRs to adopt TSTF 449, Revision 4, by May 2006 (consistent with the Federal Register notice). Currently, the NRC has received applications to adopt technical specifications similar to what is contained in TSTF-449 from approximately 15 PWR units. In a public meeting on August 12, 2005, my staff was informed that a survey was conducted on when plants were planning to submit their TSTF-449 applications. For planning purposes, it would be beneficial if the results of the survey were shared with us.

As you know, TSTF 449 and NEI 97-06 are performance based. As a result, we will continue to monitor steam generator performance at each plant consistent with our review and oversight processes. If we identify any issues with NEI 97-06 or the associated Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) guidelines as a result of these activities, we will notify you or your staff so that you can evaluate the need to update your guidance documents.

Sincerely,

/(RA by William H. Bateman)/

William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: J. Riley, NEI

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