



Public Service of New Hampshire

SEABROOK STATION
Engineering Office

June 13, 1985
SBN- 822
T.F. B7.1.3

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. George W. Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing

Reference: (a) Construction Permits CPPR-135 and CPPR-136, Docket
Nos. 50-443 and 50-444

Subject: Boron Injection Tank (BIT)

Dear Sir:

The Boron Injection Tank (BIT) is a component of the Safety Injection System (SIS) whose function is to provide concentrated boric acid to the reactor to mitigate the consequences of a postulated steam line break. We have found that operating plants have experienced problems with the heaters required to maintain the boric acid in solution (i.e., within Technical Specification limits.)

Violation of the Technical Specification boron concentration in the BIT poses a potentially serious impact on plant availability. If the concentration is not restored within one hour, the plant must be taken to the hot standby condition and borated to the equivalent of 1 percent Δ K/K at 200°F. Furthermore, the high boric acid concentration makes recovery from a spurious safety injection signal (which results in injection of the BIT fluid into the Reactor Coolant System) time consuming and costly.

Therefore, to enhance plant availability and to realize some cost savings, we intend to delete the BIT from the SIS. This deletion will not have an adverse safety impact since Westinghouse's (W) steam line break analysis, using updated criteria and improved techniques, can be revised without affecting the accident mitigation capability of the plant. Westinghouse has provided this revised analysis for several other plants similar to Seabrook and it has been found acceptable by the NRC.

Once Westinghouse has completed this re-analysis, the affected FSAR sections will be revised and included in an amendment to the FSAR.

Very truly yours,

J. DeVincentis, Director
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cc: Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Service List

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