



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

December 29, 1992

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Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: CODE SAFETY VALVE DRIFT AND SETPOINT - STANDARD TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATIONS ACTION ITEM #98

The purpose of this letter is to confirm and describe the staff's position with regard to Code safety valve drift during operation and the resetting of valve setpoints following calibration. This issue was discussed during our executive meeting on September 17, 1992. At that time, I indicated that the standard technical specifications (STS) should incorporate the position developed for the BWR plants in response to General Electric's topical report NEDC-31753P.

On November 23, 1992, the CRGR discussed the staff's evaluation of that report, and approved a position on NEDC-31753P which is appropriate for generic implementation. Specifically, the CRGR approved a position which consists of the following relevant elements.

- A generic change of valve setpoint tolerance to  $\pm 3\%$  is acceptable, provided that the plant-specific accident analysis justifies such a change.
- Licensees may propose license amendments to raise the allowable drift tolerance to  $\pm 3\%$ , in conjunction with a staggered testing interval (one-half of the valves at least once per 18 months and all valves within 40 months), provided that there is a requirement to conduct additional testing when a valve is found to exceed that tolerance (two additional valves for each valve found with a setpoint outside the 3% tolerance).
- All valves removed for maintenance or testing must be reset to  $\pm 1\%$  prior to plant startup.

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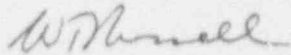
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December 29, 1992

Upon issuance of the safety evaluation report for NEDC-31753P, which describes this position in greater detail, the staff will prepare proposed conforming changes to each of the STS for the Owners Groups' review and comment. Based on the foregoing position, we consider the subject Action Item #98 resolved.

Sincerely,



William T. Russell, Associate Director  
for Inspection and Technical Assessment  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: W. Hall, NUMARC

December 29, 1992

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Sincerely,

Original Signed By

William T. Russell, Associate Director  
for Inspection and Technical Assessment  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: W. Hall, NUMARC

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Given the above, we consider Action List Item #98 resolved. When available, my staff will provide each of the TS owners group chairmen with a copy of the Staff's SER pertaining to our review of NEDC-31753P.

Sincerely,

William T. Russell, Associate Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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