

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

5.

FEB 28 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

An abnormal number of changes have been required to correct deficiencies in the Grand Gulf Technical Specifications. The existence of these deficiencies has been a source of concern to the staff, Commission and the licensee. As a result, the staff has undertaken several steps to identify the extent of the problem, its root causes and potential safety significance. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Commission of the current status of some of these staff efforts.

NRR has contracted with Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) to conduct an audit of selected systems in the Grand Gulf Technical Specifications. The purpose of this audit is to examine the consistency of the technical specifications, the FSAR and SER. Any potential inconsistencies are to be identified to the staff for further evaluation. A Technical Evaluation Report is under preparation. Preliminary conclusions are that this effort has identified a number of potential discrepancies.

On February 21-24, 1984, Region II conducted a onsite inspection in coordination with NRR, for the purpose of comparing the Technical Specifications (TS) to the installed plant hardware to determine a confidence level in the correctness of the TS. The inspection involved nine Region II inspectors. Ten sections of the TS were audited. No discrepancies were identified in two areas. In four areas reviewed, errors were found in the TS, along with several unresolved TS questions. Additional questions regarding acceptability of the TS were identified in each of the remaining four areas.

The findings of the onsite inspection were presented to the licensee in an exit interview on 2/24/84 at the Grand Gulf site. About 50% of the errors had also been identified by MP&L and action was in progress for resolution. Based on these findings, Region II concludes that previous MP&L reviews, although substantial, have not been completely effective in the identification and correction of errors and deficiencies contained in the TS. The Regional Administrator has informed the Senior Vice President of MP&L of this conclusion.

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As a result of preliminary indications of further deficiencies, the Director of MRR has determined that a more detailed staff review of the Grand Gulf Technical Specifications is warranted. This review, which will entail each technical branch evaluating the technical specifications sections under its purview, is expected to be completed on or about March 9, 1984.

The staff will provide the results of each of these efforts to the Commission upon completion. In the meantime the staff will provide a categorization of previously identified Technical Specification deficiencies as soon as it is developed.

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

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