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## NRC STAFF ISSUES DRAFT NEW STANDARD TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Written by J.A. Calvo



The Technical Specifications Branch (OTSB), Branch Chief, Jose alvo; and OTSB members including Nanette Gilles, Richard Emch, Mark Reinhart, and Carl Schulten present the first draft copy of the new Standard Technical Specifications (STS) to Bill Russell (seated), Associate Director for Inspection and Technical Assessment, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

The Technical Specifications Improvement Program reached a major milestone on January 29, 1991, with the issuance of the draft new Standard Technical Specifications (STS) to industry and the public for comment. The new STS were issued as five draft NUREGs, one for each of the nuclear power plant owners groups representing: Babcock and Wilcox, Westinghouse, Combustion Engineering, and General Electric (BWR-4 and BWR-6). These draft NUREGs present the results of the NRC staff review of the nuclear power plant owners groups proposed new STS.

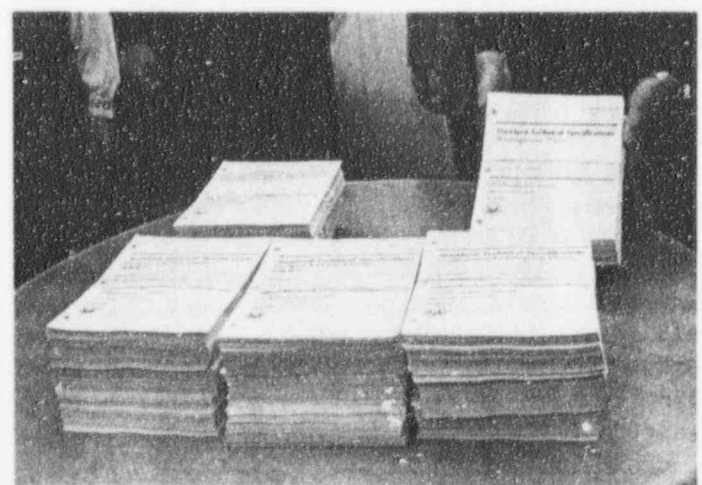
Each commercial nuclear power plant is required by Federal regulations to have Technical Specifications as part of their operating license. Technical Specifications set forth specific characteristics and operating limits to provide adequate protection to the health and safety of the public.

In 1983, the NRC commissioned a task group to perform a detailed study of technical specifications to identify the scope and nature of problems with the technical requirements. In its report (NUREG-1024, "Technical Specifications — Enhancing the Safety Impact"), the task group recommended a complete reevaluation of all technical requirements in Technical Specifications and called upon the nuclear industry to support the NRC staff in this effort.

Furthermore, a number of other studies by the NRC and industry identified the need to make additional improvements to Technical Specifications. Therefore, the Commission issued its interim Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvement in February 1987. The objective of the interim Policy Statement was to improve operational safety thru simplifying the Technical Specifications, improving their Bases, focusing attention on the more safety significant aspects, making the Technical Specifications more operator oriented, and incorporating human factors considerations. The development of the new STS was the first step towards achieving this objective. In parallel to the work on developing the new STS, the NRC staff issued a number of line-item improvements to existing Technical Specifications that are immediately available to licensees. These line-item improvements have also been incorporated into the new STS.

After more than a year-and-a-half of intensive review by the Technical Specifications Branch, the NRR technical specialty branches, and numerous discussions with the nuclear power plant owners groups, the NRC staff issued draft new STS on January 29, 1991 for comment by industry and the public.

After receipt and resolution of comments, the NRC staff will issue the final new STS for plant-specific implementation. Plant-specific implementation will begin with five lead plant conversions to the new STS. Subsequently, follow-on plants would be considered for conversions to the new STS on a voluntary basis.



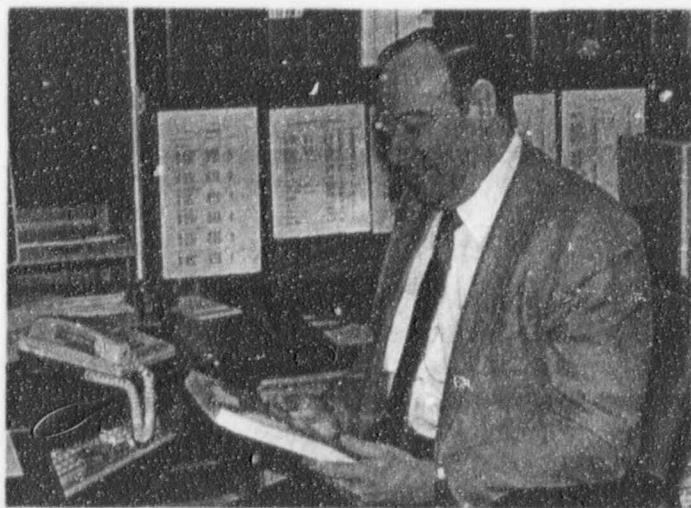
Shown above are five sets of the new STS, one for each nuclear power plant owner group; includes 5 NUREGs with 3 volumes per set, about 7,000 pages.

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Jose Calvo

## JOSE CALVO, CHIEF OTSB PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR REGION I REACTORS

Written by M.L. Reardon

Mr. Calvo joined the AEC/NRC in 1972 and has held increasingly responsible positions, including: Chief of the Plant, Electrical, Instrumentation and Control Systems Branch; and Director of Project Directorate IV. Mr. Calvo graduated from Louisiana State University in 1957 earning a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering. From 1957 until 1972, he held various positions with Louisiana Power and Light Company, Westinghouse PWR Division and Bechtel Corporation. During 1980, Mr. Calvo served as a Technical Advisor for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the Mexican Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, Mr. Calvo served on the Three Mile Island Unit 2 (TMI-2) Task Force and as the Systems Manager on the Comanche Peak Project Task Force responsible for assessing the quality of the plant construction.

From May 1989 until his recent promotion, Mr. Calvo has managed the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) Safety Review

Program Activities associated with maintaining the Technical Specifications (TS) for existing operating plants and for developing TS for new plants. In addition, he has been responsible for managing the implementation of the NRR safety program instituted in response to the Commission's Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvement. The cornerstone of the Technical Specifications Improvement Program (TSIP) is the development of a completely new set of Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for each reactor vendor design.

During Mr. Calvo's tenure, Technical Specifications Branch (OTSB) accomplished a major milestone with the issuance of drafts for five new sets of STS. In the area of the TSIP concerning line-item improvements to existing TS, various topical reports were approved and various generic letters were issued.

In another area of the TSIP, which related to the development of risk-based TS, a major milestone was achieved with the publication of a report that established the feasibility of the concept of real-time risk-based TS, and recommended implementation at an operating reactor. Also, OTSB staff sponsored and participated in eight workshops with industry and other NRC staff to discuss 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluations and determinations of equipment operability related to TS. In addition, two new plants' TS were issued and two major upgrades of existing TS were accomplished.

We all wish Mr. Calvo well in his new position and endeavors. His enthusiasm for "getting a job done" will always be remembered by his staff.

## LINE-ITEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR EXISTING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Written by T. Dunning

The NRC staff is continuing to develop line-item improvements in TS in order to implement the objectives of the Commission's Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements. The NRC staff will continue to issue generic letters to provide guidance for implementing line-item improvements.

The staff has issued this year the following generic letters on line-item TS improvements.

### Generic Letter 91-04, "Changes in TS Surveillance Intervals to Accommodate a 24-Month Fuel Cycle"

Current 18-month surveillance intervals are not compatible with operation on a 24-month fuel cycle. Guidance is provided on TS changes for surveillance intervals and information needed to support the NRC staff's review of changes that would accommodate a 24-month fuel cycle. Special consideration is given to the TS provisions for steam generator tube inspections and the modification of existing TS requirements on the interval between inspections.

To support an increased surveillance interval for instruments that perform a safety function, the effects of instrument drift over a longer calibration interval must be considered, particularly the impact on safety analysis assumptions and safety system setpoints. Guidance is provided on information to be provided by licensees to confirm the appropriate action has been taken to justify the proposed changes.

Continued on Page 3, Column 2

# COMMENT RESOLUTION OF THE NEW STS

Written by N. Gilles

On January 29, 1991, OTSB issued the draft new STS as five NUREGs one for each of the nuclear power plant owners groups representing: Babcock and Wilcox, Westinghouse, Combustion Engineering, and General Electric (BWR-4 and BWR-6). A Federal Register Notice of Availability (56 FR 11462, March 18, 1991) was

issued establishing a comment period on the draft NUREGs through May 31, 1991. OTSB will have eight lead engineers responsible for resolving all comments. These individuals are as follows:

STS SECTION NUMBER	STS SECTION DESCRIPTION	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION BRANCH CONTACT
1.0	Use and Application	C. Craig Harbuck
2.0	Safety Limits	Theodore R. Tjader
3.0	Applicability	C. Craig Harbuck
3.1	Reactivity Control Systems	Theodore R. Tjader
3.2	Power Distribution Limits	Theodore R. Tjader
3.3	Instrumentation	Carl S. Schulten
3.4	Reactor Coolant System	Nanette V. Gilles
3.5	Emergency Core Cooling System	Nanette V. Gilles
3.6	Containment	Calvin W. Moon
3.7	Plant Systems	James R. Miller
3.8	Electrical Power Distribution	Chris L. Hoxie
3.9	Refueling Operations	Maggalene W. Weston
3.10	Special Operations	Theodore R. Tjader
4.0	Design Features	Theodore R. Tjader
5.0	Administrative Controls	Nanette V. Gilles

## TOPICAL REPORTS

Written by M. Wohl

The following information pertains to OTSB approval of topical reports requesting extensions in surveillance test intervals (STIs) and allowed outage times (AOTs) for various vendor owners' group actuation instrumentation systems since February 1989.

### TOPICAL REPORT STATUS FOR GENERIC WESTINGHOUSE PWR STI/AOT EXTENSIONS

A safety evaluation report (SER) approving Westinghouse/Westinghouse Owners Group Topical Report WCAP-10271, Supplement 2, Revision 1, "Evaluation of Surveillance Frequencies and Out-of-Service Times for the Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System" was issued on February 23, 1989.

The SER approves changes in analog channel STIs from monthly to quarterly. Maintenance AOTs for analog channels, logic cabinets, and master and slave relays are extended to 12 hours. Test AOTs are extended to either 12, 8, or 4 hours. Additionally, the staggered test requirement is removed in the surveillance testing of reactor protection system (RPS) instrumentation analog channels.

Supplement 1 to the above Safety Evaluation issued April 30, 1990, approved AOT extensions for Westinghouse RPS logic cabinets, but denied STI/AOT extensions for trip breakers. Additionally, the staff has approved STI/AOT extensions for the engineered safety features actuation system functions associated with the safety injection, steam line isolation, main feedwater isolation and auxiliary feedwater pump start signals.

### TOPICAL REPORTS STATUS FOR GENERIC BWR STI/AOT EXTENSIONS

An SER was issued on June 18, 1990, approving General Electric Company (GE) BWR Owners Group (BWROG) Topical Report

NEDC-31677, "Technical Specification Improvement Analysis for BWR Isolation Actuation Instrumentation."

The topical report provides the basis upon which BWRs can extend STIs and AOTs for isolation actuation instrumentation in the technical specifications. This approval completed the review of the first group of topicals submitted by GE BWROG for changes in the instrumentation technical specifications based on probabilistic risk assessment.

### LINE-ITEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR EXISTING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

(Continued from page 2)

Finally, guidance is provided on information needed to support an exemption to the 24-month interval for Type B and C leak tests, as specified in Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50, in order to be compatible with a 24-month fuel cycle. With these changes, the bounding limit for performing these tests and surveillances would be 30 months.

### Generic Letter 91-01, "Removal of the Schedule for the Withdrawal of Reactor Material Specimens from TS"

The surveillances associated with the TS requirements on the pressure and temperature limits for the reactor coolant system have included the schedule for the withdrawal of reactor material specimens. Because Appendix H to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) requires the submittal to and approval by the NRC of a proposed withdrawal schedule for material specimens before that schedule is implemented, the TS duplicates the controls on changes to this schedule that are included in Appendix H. The removal of this schedule from the TS eliminates an unnecessary duplication of regulatory controls on this schedule. By making this TS change, the staff requested licensees to provide a commitment to place the schedule in the final safety analysis report (FSAR) so that a copy would be readily available for reference.



## OTSB PRESENTS APPRECIATION AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING WORK TO MEREX CONTRACTORS

Written by N. Gilles



OTSB Branch Chief, Jose Calvo, and several members of his staff express their appreciation for a "job well done" by the MEREX staff.

On March 15, 1991, OTSB Branch Chief, Jose Calvo, presented NRC Appreciation Awards to MEREX contractors for their outstanding contributions to the issuance of the new STS (issued on January 29, 1991). Mr. Calvo stated that the NRC greatly appreciated the effort and good work that the MEREX staff had done for the Technical Specifications Branch in preparation for issuance of the new STS.

MEREX provided contract services specializing in word processing, editing, and program management support to OTSB. They worked aggressively to set-up a document control system which significantly increased the productivity of the word processing and editing effort and were always willing to do whatever it took to get a job done in the time requested by OTSB. These schedules often required very fast turn-around, but MEREX was always willing to work nights, weekends, and even holidays in order to deliver the product.

### TECH SPEC NEWS CREDITS

The Tech Spec Newsletter is a monthly publication providing information of interest concerning TSIP. It is produced by the staff of NRR Technical Specifications Branch. Please forward questions and comments to the OTSB staff by:

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## MARK REINHART PROMOTED TO SPECIAL PROJECTS SECTION LEADER, OTSB

Written by M.L. Reardon



Mark Reinhart

In March 1991, Mark Reinhart, Senior Operations Engineer, was promoted to Section Leader, Special Projects Section OTSB. He was assigned to this position with the reassignment of Richard Lobel to the Office of the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) in February 1991.

Mark Reinhart, managed the development of the new Standard Technical Specifications to their draft issuance in January 1991. He has over 24 years of nuclear power experience and has worked for the NRC and for utilities with Pressurized Water and Boiling Water Reactors.

Mark has served as a nuclear engineer and ship's engineer officer in the Navy. He has also served as a licensed senior reactor operator, quality assurance supervisor, and managed a licensed operator training program.

We all wish Mark well in undertaking his new assignment.

### TECH SPEC PROGRAM BRIEFING IN REGION II OFFICE

Written by R. Emch

On February 12, 1991, OTSB presented a briefing in Atlanta, Georgia to the Region II management, inspectors, and resident inspectors from the lead plants planning to convert to the new STS. The briefing covered the status of the new STS development program, plans for implementation of the new STS at the lead plants, a description of ongoing work on risk-based TS, a summary of line-item improvements for the current TS, a tutorial on equipment operability, and guidance on 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluations.

OTSB expects to conduct similar briefings in the other regional offices in the future. This briefing was important for Region II because all four of the active lead plants for conversion to the new STS are located in Region II. OTSB explained the ways the lead plant resident inspector will be most helpful in the implementation process consistent with limiting the burden on the residents.