



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

August 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Attached List

FROM: Don H. Beckham, Director
Technical Specification Improvement Project
Division of Safety Technology, NRR

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS ON OPERATING
REACTORS DURING 1984, SAI CORPORATION, JULY 31, 1985

The subject report was recently completed by SAI to help TSIP evaluate Technical Specification problems. Based on our initial review of this report, we have prepared a summary of major insights which is enclosed (Enclosure 1). A copy of the SAI report is also enclosed for your information (Enclosure 2). Please address any questions or comments to Scott Newberry on extension 29625.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. H. Beckham", written in a cursive style.

Don H. Beckham, Director
Technical Specification
Improvement Project
Division of Safety Technology, NRR

- Enclosures:
1. Summary of Major Insights
 2. SAI Report

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Technical Specification
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(TSIP)

The Attached List:

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MAJOR INSIGHTS SUMMARY

For the 91 reactors licensed and listed in the grey book, (Licensed Operating Reactor Status Summary NUREG-0020) for 1984, a total of 77 shutdowns required by Technical Specifications and 624 violations of Technical Specifications were reported as required by 10 CFR 50.73. Some of the major insights from the enclosed report are:

1. The largest single types of violations pertain to fire protection and radiation monitoring and protection requirements.
2. The frequency of Technical Specification violation is higher for plants licensed in the last 2 years and for plants with standard Technical Specifications (compared to plants with custom Technical Specifications).
3. The 77 shutdowns contributed 14% unavailability (11,265 hrs.) to the total industry unavailability of 37% for 1984 (256,200 hrs.).
4. The largest single cause of shutdowns is reactor coolant system leakage (18).
5. Of the 77 shutdowns, 53 were of sufficient duration to significantly affect unavailability. These events occurred at 39 plants.
6. About one-half of the total unavailability from Technical Specification required shutdowns occurred at 5 plants. The steam generator tube rupture caused outage at Ft. Calhoun contributes about 10% (1390 hrs.).
7. Several shutdowns were for conditions of negligible risk significance. However, these events did not significantly affect plant availability.
8. Several shutdowns may have placed a greater challenge on the plant safety systems than if the plant were allowed to continue to operate for a limited time while repairs were being made. These events generally involved degraded operation of systems that are necessary both to provide mitigating functions under accident conditions and to effect a safe shutdown under normal conditions.