

March 5, 1997

Mr. James Davis
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 Eye Street, N. W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006-2496

Dear Mr. Davis:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit a summary of the Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) meeting, which took place at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Maryland, on January 30, 1997.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
C. I. Grimes

Christopher I. Grimes, Chief
Technical Specifications Branch
Associate Director for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc: D. Hoffman, EXCEL
B. Mann, BG&E Co.
A. Maron, PP&L
H. Pontious, WOG
D. Wuokko, BWO
C. Szabo, Entergy Ops.
B. Ford, Entergy Ops.

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DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DLJ\MTGSUM01.97

OFFICE	NRR/ADPR/TSB	NRR/ADPR/TSB
NAME	DLJohnson <i>dy</i>	CIGrimes <i>CG</i>
DATE	03/05/97	03/5/97 <i>CG</i>

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. I. Grimes", is positioned above the typed name.

Christopher I. Grimes, Chief
Technical Specifications Branch
Associate Director for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY
January 30, 1997

A meeting between the NEI Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) and the NRC staff was held on January 30, 1997. The attendees were:

James Davis, NEI
Clint Szabo, BWO
Harold Pontious, WOG
Donald Hoffman, EXCEL Services
Robert "Mike" Neil, NUS
Christopher Grimes, NRC
Tom Dunning, NRC
Mary Lynn Reardon, NRC
Deborah Johnson, NRC

Mr. Grimes opened the meeting by asking for any additions to the meeting Agenda, of which there were none. Mr. Grimes asked if there were comments on the October 28-29, 1996 meeting summary transmitted by letter dated December 3, 1996; there were none. Mr. Grimes noted that there are currently 125 traveller packages recorded in the NRC traveller database, 62 of which are pending.

Prioritize & Flag

Mr. Grimes suggested that, because of increasing demands on NRC resources, it would be helpful if the TSTF could prioritize traveller packages and flag those that might be contentious and therefore require more time to review. TSTF-51, TSTF-115, and TSTF-64 were cited as examples. The TSTF discussed how it might be difficult to prioritize, but agreed to review pending and new packages to determine which may take a significant amount of time to review, and identify those packages to NRC. NRC agreed to review the pending travelers and identify any additional travelers that may involve a lengthy review. The objective is to build a list of proposed STS changes that may warrant higher management attention and treatment in accordance with the NRR procedures for generic issues.

TSTF-115

The TSTF reported that progress is being made on TSTF-115 for battery testing. IEEE has formed a subgroup that had sent comments out before Christmas for review and comment. A teleconference will be held in the next few weeks to resolve outstanding comments. A revision package should be sent to NRC within about a month.

TSTF-67

The TSTF identified this change to the shutdown margin definition as an important issue for the conversions. Bob Tjader, the NRC staff member reviewing this traveller, is on temporary duty out of the country. Upon his return, he will be asked to meet with the NRR technical staff to resolve this issue.

TSTF-70

The TSTF indicated that NRC only changed NUREG-1432 upon approval of this change, but their traveller applied to NUREG-1430 and -1431, as well; however, the TSTF also admitted that their traveller only indicated this in the justification and not as they would have normally marked the change package. TSTF will send a revision to NRC indicating all changes necessary to correct all of the applicable STS.

New Traveller Packages

NRC has now received a total 160 traveller packages, of which 125 have been logged; 62 of the 125 are *Pending*. The Task Force informed NRC that 50 more packages will be sent by mid-March.

TSTF Confirmation

The NRC and TSTF agreed to use standard terms, as distributed with the meeting notice dated January 13, 1997, to be e-mailed for TSTF Confirmation of incorporation of changes to the STS. A 10-day review period was also agreed upon as an adequate period to complete a confirmation review, or identify any clarifications that need to be resolved before incorporation of the changes into the STS files.

New NRC Database

The database under construction at NRC to track TSTF travellers is programmed in Delphi, which is a Windows development tool; the language used is Pascal. The database uses MSAccess drivers to manage the database. Therefore, this data can be shared electronically simply by attaching the database to an e-mail.

TSTF Status

Deborah Johnson, NRC, and Donald Hoffman, Excel Services, will meet to agree on a status report format to show progress being made between Owner's Group meetings.

Conversion Guidance

A December 13, 1996 letter from NRC to NEI provided reflections on lessons learned from the conversion reviews that involve areas where additional industry guidance would improve the efficiency of the review process. In addition, NRC suggested that the TSTF could also supplement the industry conversion guidance to encourage licensees to identify differences in their plant-specific applications that have generic features, up to some specified cut-off date, either by TSTF number, Owner's Group number, or planned TSTF action. NRC agreed to send a letter to NEI providing suggestions for similar supplemental conversion guidance.

NRC also suggested that NEI expand the guidance on the need for more detail in the implementation plans for STS conversions. More realistic implementation schedules would better enable NRC to establish firm review schedules. This is particularly important as competing demands on NRC resources affect the review schedules and resolution of issues. Mr. Grimes will provide Mr. Davis at NEI with an outline of the conversion review process to facilitate the development of that guidance.

Licensees should understand that failure to heed the advice in Administrative Letter 95-06 (i.e., incorporating changes in the licensing basis in the conversion application) increases the NRC resources and complicates the review. However, both the licensees and the NRC staff are obligated to identify and address weaknesses in the existing licensing basis, and ensure that those weaknesses are resolved separate from the conversion review.

Writer's Guide Revision

NEI provided NRC with a draft revision to the Writer's Guide for Restructured Technical Specifications. The purpose of the revised Writer's Guide is to simplify the format and structure as much as possible to accommodate future implementation of SGML and permit different word processing software to achieve comparable results. NEI agreed to prepare a list of necessary format and structure features, and clarify the maintenance of the controlled copies of technical specifications relative to the the NRC Official Record copy.

Mr. Grimes requested that by April 1, 1997, NRC would like to have demonstrated that transfer of technical specifications between NRC and industry can be successfully accomplished, both electronically and in printed form. Tom Dunning, NRC, and Clint Szabo, BWOOG, are the contacts for this effort.