ATTACHMENT 5—PROPOSED CHANGES TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION BASES PAGES

[Not required for plants only adopting portion of TSTF–475 change pertaining to TS Section 1.4 that provides example to SR Frequency]

Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination

Description of Amendment Request: [Plant Name] requests adoption of an approved change to the Standard Technical Specifications (STS) for [General Electric (GE) Plants (NUREG–1433, BWR/4 and NUREG–1434, BWR/6)] plant specific technical specifications (TS), that allows: (1) [revising the frequency of SR 3.1.3.2, notch testing of fully withdrawn control rod, from “7 days after the control rod is withdrawn and THERMAL POWER is greater than the LPSP of RWM” to “31 days after the control rod is withdrawn and THERMAL POWER is greater than the LPSP of the RWM”, (2) adding the word “fully” to LCO 3.3.1.2 Required Action E.2 to clarify the requirement to fully insert all insertable control rods in core cells containing one or more fuel assemblies when the associated SRM instrument is inoperable, and (3)] revising Example 1.4–3 in Section 1.4 “Frequency” to clarify that the 1.25 surveillance test interval extension in SR 3.0.2 is applicable to time periods discussed in NOTES in the “SURVEILLANCE” column in addition to the time periods in the “FREQUENCY” column. The staff finds that the proposed STS changes are acceptable [because the number of control rod manipulations is reduced thereby reducing the opportunity for potential reactivity events while having a very low impact on the extremely high reliability of the CRD system as discussed in the technical evaluation section of this safety evaluation and] the discussion of the SR Frequency example provides clarification.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), an analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration is presented below:

Criterion 1—The Proposed Change Does Not Involve a Significant Increase in the Probability or Consequences of an Accident Previously Evaluated

The proposed change generically implements TSTF–475, Revision 1, “Control Rod Notch Testing Frequency and SRM Insert Control Rod Action.” TSTF–475, Revision 1 modifies NUREG–1433 (BWR/4) and NUREG–1434 (BWR/6) STS. The changes: (1) revise TS testing frequency for surveillance requirement [SR] 3.1.3.2 in TS 3.1.3, “Control Rod OPERABILITY”, (2) clarify the requirement to fully insert all insertable control rods for the limiting condition for operation (LCO) in TS 3.3.1.2, Required Action E.2, “Source Range Monitoring Instrumentation” (NUREG–1434 only), and (3) revise Example 1.4–3 in Section 1.4 “Frequency” to clarify the applicability of the 1.25 surveillance test interval extension. The consequences of an accident after adopting TSTF–475, Revision 1 are no different than the consequences of an accident prior to adoption. Therefore, this change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Criterion 2—The Proposed Change Does Not Create the Possibility of a New or Different Kind of Accident from any Accident Previously Evaluated

The proposed change does not involve a physical alteration of the plant (no new or different type of equipment will be installed) or a change in the method governing normal plant operation. The proposed change will not introduce new failure modes or effects and will not, in the absence of other unrelated failures, lead to an accident whose consequences exceed the consequences of accidents previously analyzed. Thus, this change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

Criterion 3—The Proposed Change Does Not Involve a Significant Reduction in the Margin of Safety

TSTF–475, Revision 1 will: (1) revise the TS SR 3.1.3.2 frequency in TS 3.1.3, “Control Rod OPERABILITY”, (2) clarify the requirement to fully insert all insertable control rods for the limiting condition for operation (LCO) in TS 3.3.1.2, “Source Range Monitoring Instrumentation,” and (3) revise Example 1.4–3 in Section 1.4 “Frequency” to clarify the applicability of the 1.25 surveillance test interval extension. [The GE Nuclear Energy Report, “CRD Notching Surveillance Testing for Limerick Generating Station,” dated November 2006, concludes that extending the control rod notch test interval from weekly to monthly is not expected to impact the reliability of the scram system and that the analysis supports the decision to change the surveillance frequency.] Therefore, the proposed changes in TSTF–475, Revision 1 are acceptable and do not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Based upon the reasoning presented above and the previous discussion of the amendment request, the requested change does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of November, 2007.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Timothy J. Kobetz,
Section Chief, Technical Specifications Branch, Division of Inspection & Regional Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of availability.


A copy of the document is also available for inspection and/or copying for a fee in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC after November 1, 1999, are available electronically at the NRC’s Electronic Reading Room at http://www.nrc.gov/NUREG/ADAMS/index.html. From this site, the public can gain entry into the NRC’s Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS), which provides text and image files of the NRC’s public documents. The ADAMS Accession Number for NUREG–1556, Volume 21 is ML072900058. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC PDR Reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The document will also be posted on NRC’s public Web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1556/ on the “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses (NUREG–1556)” Web page, and on the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs’ NARM (Naturally-Occurring and Accelerator-Produced Radioactive Material) Toolbox Web page at: http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 8, 2005, the President signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct). Among other provisions, Section 651(e) of the EPAct expanded the definition of byproduct material as defined in Section 11e. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), placing additional byproduct material under the NRC’s jurisdiction, and required the Commission to provide a regulatory framework for licensing and regulating these additional byproduct materials.

Specifically, Section 651(e) of the EPAct expanded the definition of byproduct material by: (1) Adding any discrete source of radium-226 that is produced, extracted, or converted after extraction; before, on, or after the date of enactment of the EPAct for use for a commercial, medical, or research activity; or any material that has been made radioactive by use of a particle accelerator and is produced, extracted, or converted after extraction; before, on, or after the date of enactment of the EPAct for use for a commercial, medical, or research activity; or any material that has been made radioactive by use of a particle accelerator and is produced, extracted, or converted after extraction; before, on, or after the date of enactment of the EPAct for use for a commercial, medical, or research activity (Section 11e.(3) of the AEA); and (2) adding any discrete source of naturally occurring radioactive material, other than source material, that the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, determines would pose a threat similar to the threat posed by a discrete source of radium–226 to the public health and safety or the common defense and security; and is extracted or converted after extraction before, on, or after the date of enactment of the EPAct for use in a commercial, medical, or research activity (Section 11e.(4) of the AEA).

NRC revised its regulations to provide a regulatory framework that includes these newly added radioactive materials. See Federal Register notice 72 FR 55864, dated October 1, 2007. As part of the rulemaking effort to address the mandate of the EPAct, the NRC also evaluated the need to revise certain licensing guidance to provide necessary guidance to applicants in preparing license applications to include the use of the newly added radioactive materials as byproduct material. Two NUREG–1556 documents are being revised to provide additional guidance to licensees: (1) NUREG–1556, Volume 13, Revision 1, “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses—Program-Specific Guidance About Commercial Radiopharmacy Licenses,” and (2) NUREG–1556, Volume 9, Revision 2, “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses—Program-Specific Guidance About Medical Use Licenses.” Additionally, a new NUREG–1556 volume was developed to address production of radioactive material using an accelerator. This NUREG–1556 volume is entitled: Volume 21, “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses—Program-Specific Guidance About Possession Licenses for Production of Radioactive Material Using an Accelerator.”

NUREG–1556, Volume 21, “Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses—Program-Specific Guidance About Possession Licenses for Production of Radioactive Material Using an Accelerator” was noticed for public comment on May 29, 2007 (72 FR 29555). Six comment letters were received and these comments were considered by the staff as this NUREG was finalized.

NUREG–1556, Volume 21, provides guidance on preparing a license application for the production of radioactive material using an accelerator(s). It also includes the criteria that NRC staff will use in evaluating license applications for this use. This document includes guidance that is specific to the activities that take place once radioactive materials are produced by the accelerator, which include material in the target and associated activation products.