

Status of Generic Letter 2003-01

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Generic Letter 2003-01

The Generic Letter titled "Control Room Habitability," was issued to holders of operating licenses for pressurized-water reactors (PWRs) and boiling-water reactors (BWRs) except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel and more than 1 year has elapsed since fuel was irradiated in the reactor vessel.

Purpose of Generic Letter 2003-01

1. Alert Addressees to findings that Regulatory Requirements may not be met
2. Emphasize the importance of reliable comprehensive Surveillance testing
3. Request addressees to demonstrate that control rooms complies with licensing and design bases and regulatory requirements
4. Collect information to determine if additional regulatory action is required

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1. Confirmation of Licensing Basis
2. Confirmation of Control Room Envelope (CRE) Inleakage Characteristics
3. Adequacy of Existing Technical Specifications (TS)
4. Elimination of Compensatory Actions (KI & SCBAs)

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5. Confirmation of CRE Design to General Design Criteria (GDCs) or its predecessors
6. 60 Days Response
7. 180 Days Response

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- In March 1998 NRR Executive Team directed the staff to work with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to resolve the control room habitability issue
- Pursuant to that direction, in July 1998 the staff co-hosted a workshop with NEI and the Nuclear Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Users Group (NHUG)
- Following the workshop NEI agreed to form a task force to address control room habitability
- In August 1999 NEI provided, for NRC staff review and comment, a document entitled "control room habitability Assessment Guidance," AKA NEI 99-03

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- The document did not adequately address the staff's concerns
- A revision to NEI 99-03 was sent to the staff dated October 13, 2000
- An NRC staff review determined that some areas remain where the staff and industry were in disagreement
- In June 2001 NEI issued NEI 99-03. The staff concluded that this version was substantially the same as the October 13th 2000 version

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- The staff now believes that industry action alone would not adequately resolve the concerns and that some generic approach would be needed
- A Generic Letter would request licensees to take action to evaluate, in light of the ASTM E741 testing results to date, how licensees meet the requirements of GDC-19 with respect to unfiltered inleakage in their control room envelopes

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- It was decided that control room habitability would be addressed through a Generic Letter and new Regulatory Guides on:
 1. Control room habitability
 2. Control room envelope integrity testing
 3. Meteorology for control room habitability assessments, and
 4. Design basis accident radiological analyses

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- To support licensees that begin testing the integrity of the control room envelope by measuring unfiltered inleakage, the staff proposed to the Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF), changes to the Standard Technical Specifications on control room emergency ventilation systems
- The staff discussed these changes with the NEI control room habitability task force, and considered resolution of this issue supportive of the NRR pillars of (1) maintaining safety (2) increasing effectiveness and efficiency of key NRC processes (3) increasing public confidence (4) and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden

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- On December 20, 2002 NEI/TSTF provided, to the NRC for consideration, Standard Technical Specification change traveler TSTF-448 "Control Room Habitability".
- After several iterations, discussions, and meetings, the staff met again with the TSTF on April 20, 2006 and reached a tentative agreement on a final version of TSTF-448. This agreement is expected to address outstanding issues associated GL 2003-01

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- The TSTF agreed to prepare Rev. 3 of TSTF-448 in accordance with the agreement reached in the April 20, 2006 meeting
- The majority of licensees, in their response to GL-2003-01, committed to adopting TSTF-448 when it is issued and approved by the NRC, as their final response to GL-2003-01
- We anticipate that TSTF-448 will be issued before the end of 2006

Expected Generic Letter Accomplishments

1. All CREs Tested (in accordance with ASTM E-741 or equivalent)
2. Licensing Basis Confirmation
3. TS Adequacy Assessment
4. Removal of Compensatory Actions