

of nuclear power reactors to which the models apply could request amendments conforming to the models. In such a request, a licensee should confirm the applicability of the SE and NSHC determination to its reactor and provide the requested plant-specific verifications and commitments. The NRC staff is requesting comments on the model SE and model NSHC determination before announcing their availability for referencing in license amendment applications.

**DATES:** The comment period expires April 2, 2003. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted either electronically or via U.S. mail.

Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: T-6 D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Hand deliver comments to: 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC's Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to [CLIIP@nrc.gov](mailto:CLIIP@nrc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Dennig, Mail Stop: O-12H2, Technical Specifications Section, Operating Reactor Improvement Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone 301-415-1156.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Regulatory Issue Summary 2000-06, "Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process for Adopting Standard Technical Specification Changes for Power Reactors," was issued on March 20, 2000. The Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP) is intended to improve the efficiency and transparency of NRC licensing processes. This is accomplished by processing proposed changes to the Standard Technical Specifications (STS) in a manner that supports subsequent license amendment applications. The CLIIP includes an opportunity for the

public to comment on proposed changes to the STS following a preliminary assessment by the NRC staff and finding that the change will likely be offered for adoption by licensees. This notice is soliciting comment on a proposed change to the STS that removes requirements for the PASS for B&W plants. The CLIIP directs the NRC staff to evaluate any comments received for a proposed change to the STS and to either reconsider the change or to proceed with announcing the availability of the change for proposed adoption by licensees. Those licensees opting to apply for the subject change to technical specifications are responsible for reviewing the staff's evaluation, referencing the applicable technical justifications, and providing any necessary plant-specific information. Each amendment application made in response to the notice of availability would be processed and noticed in accordance with applicable rules and NRC procedures.

This notice involves the elimination of requirements for PASS and related administrative controls in technical specifications for B&W plants. This proposed change was proposed for incorporation into the standard technical specifications by the B&W Owners Group (BWOOG) participants in the Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) and is designated TSTF-442. TSTF-442 is supported by the NRC staff's safety evaluation dated November 14, 2002, for the BWOOG topical report BAW-2387, "Justification for the Elimination of the Post Accident Sampling System (PASS) from the Licensing Basis of Babcock and Wilcox Designed Plants," which was submitted to the NRC on June 25, 2001. The BWOOG request followed the staff's approval of similar requests for elimination of PASS requirements from the Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG), the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG), and the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG).

##### **Applicability**

This proposed change to remove requirements for PASS from technical specifications (and other elements of the licensing bases) is applicable to B&W plants.

To efficiently process the incoming license amendment applications, the staff requests each licensee applying for the changes addressed by TSTF-442 using the CLIIP to address the following plant-specific verifications and regulatory commitments. The CLIIP does not prevent licensees from requesting an alternative approach or proposing the changes without the

requested verifications and regulatory commitments. Variations from the approach recommended in this notice may, however, require additional review by the NRC staff and may increase the time and resources needed for the review. In making the requested regulatory commitments, each licensee should address: (1) That the subject capability exists (or will be developed) and will be maintained; (2) where the capability or procedure will be described (*e.g.*, severe accident management guidelines, emergency operating procedures, emergency plan implementing procedures); and (3) a schedule for implementation. The amendment request need not provide details about designs or procedures.

Each licensee shall fulfill the actions, verifications or commitments that are identified in section 4.0 of the following proposed safety evaluation.

##### **Public Notice**

This notice requests comments from interested members of the public within 30 days of the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Following the staff's evaluation of comments received as a result of this notice, the staff may reconsider the proposed change or may proceed with announcing the availability of the change in a subsequent notice (perhaps with some changes to the safety evaluation or proposed no significant hazards consideration determination as a result of public comments). If the staff announces the availability of the change, licensees wishing to adopt the change will submit an application in accordance with applicable rules and other regulatory requirements. The staff will in turn issue for each application a notice of consideration of issuance of amendment to facility operating license(s), a proposed no significant hazards consideration determination, and an opportunity for a hearing. A notice of issuance of an amendment to operating license(s) will also be issued to announce the elimination of the PASS requirements for each plant that applies for and receives the requested change.

##### **Proposed Safety Evaluation; Consolidated Line Item Improvement; Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) Change TSTF-442; Elimination of the Post Accident Sampling System (PASS) From the Licensing Basis of Babcock and Wilcox Designed Plants**

##### **1.0 Introduction**

In its letter dated June 25, 2001, the BWOOG submitted for the NRC staff's review topical report BAW-2387,