

September 14, 2000

Mr. James M. Kenny, Chairman  
BWR Owners Group  
PPL, Inc.  
2 North Ninth Street M/C A6-1  
Allentown, PA 18101

SUBJECT: BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP DC-MOTOR PERFORMANCE  
METHODOLOGY (TAC NO. MA9366)

Dear Mr. Kenny:

On August 30, 2000, the NRC staff held a public meeting at the NRC White Flint office with you and other representatives of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners' Group (BWROG) to discuss a methodology developed by the BWROG to provide improved predictions of the performance of dc-powered motor actuators used to operate valves in nuclear power plants. The BWROG dc-motor performance methodology is described in Topical Report NEDC-32958, "BWR Owners' Group DC Motor Performance Methodology - Predicting Capability and Stroke Time in DC Motor-Operated Valves," (Revision 0, dated March 2000). The BWROG established this proactive effort to develop the updated dc-motor methodology in response to concerns regarding the current industry guidance for predicting the performance of dc-powered motor-operated valves (MOVs).

During the meeting on August 30, BWROG representatives and your contractor (MPR Associates, Inc.) described the purpose of the dc-powered MOV program and discussed the application and validation of the methodology. The BWROG representatives stated that you are not requesting that the NRC staff prepare a safety evaluation on the dc-motor performance methodology at this time. However, the BWROG representatives suggested that a reference to the updated dc-motor performance methodology in an information notice (IN) might be a preferred approach. The NRC staff is considering supplementing IN 96-48 (August 21, 1996), "Motor-Operated Valve Performance Issues," to alert licensees to the improved guidance on dc-powered MOV motor actuator output similar to the resolution of the ac-powered MOV output issue.

At the end of the meeting, the BWROG representatives indicated that the NRC staff may request a copy of the computer spreadsheet program of the dc-motor performance methodology in a letter to you. Per that discussion, we would appreciate receiving two copies of the computer spreadsheet program for our use and that of our contractor (Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory) in understanding the application of the BWROG methodology. We understand that the quality assurance process has not been completed for the computer program and, therefore, the NRC staff will not rely on the spreadsheet for evaluations of plant-specific dc-powered MOVs.

Mr. James M. Kenny

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September 14, 2000

We recognize the significant effort expended by BWROG in developing the dc-motor performance methodology to help resolve the concerns regarding dc-powered MOV motor actuator output. Please contact Thomas Scarbrough at 301-415-2794, if you have any questions on this request.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 691

cc: See next page

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| DATE   | 09/08/00    | 9/1/00   | 9/1/00   |          | 09/13/00    |

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| NAME   | RPulsifer | EPeyton   | SDembek   |
| DATE   | 09/06/00  | 09/01/00  | 09/13/00  |

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