

October 19, 2000

Mr. Richard Bernier, Chairman
CE Owners Group
Mail Stop 7868
Arizona Public Service Company
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF JOINT OWNERS GROUP PROGRAM ON
MOTOR-OPERATED VALVE PERIODIC VERIFICATION (TAC NO. MA5035)

Dear Mr. Bernier:

In a letter dated August 7, 2000, the Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG) notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff that the start date of Phase 2 of the Joint Owners Group (JOG) Program on Motor-Operated Valve (MOV) Periodic Verification (PV) had been redefined from March 1997 to October 1997. In letters dated May 25, June 30, and August 4, 2000, respectively, the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group, Westinghouse Owners Group, and the B&W Owners Group, also notified the NRC of the change in the start date of Phase 2 of the JOG program. This schedule change for the JOG program is discussed below.

In response to Generic Letter (GL) 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design-Basis Capability of Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valves," the CEOG and other owners groups jointly developed the JOG Program on MOV PV to share information among licensees on MOV performance and to provide an efficient use of resources in addressing long-term MOV performance issues. The CEOG describes the JOG Program on MOV PV in its Licensing Topical Report MPR-1807 (Revision 2), "Joint BWR, Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering Owners' Group Program on Motor-Operated Valve (MOV) Periodic Verification." The JOG program consists of the following three phases: (1) an interim MOV static diagnostic test program, (2) a 5-year MOV dynamic diagnostic test program, and (3) a long-term MOV periodic diagnostic test program. In MPR-1807, the CEOG stated that the MOV dynamic test program under Phase 2 of the JOG program would be conducted from March 1997 to March 2002. On October 30, 1997, the NRC staff issued a safety evaluation (SE) accepting the JOG program with certain conditions and limitations as an acceptable industry-wide response to GL 96-05 for valve age-related degradation.

In its letter dated August 7, 2000, the CEOG reports that the 5-year MOV dynamic test program under Phase 2 of the JOG program is now scheduled to be completed in October 2002 rather than March 2002 as planned in MPR-1807. The CEOG indicates that the start date for Phase 2 of the JOG program was adjusted to reflect the issuance date of the NRC SE, accepting the JOG program. The CEOG states that the schedule change does not alter any existing licensees' JOG MOV periodic verification program commitment with the NRC.

The NRC staff has reviewed the adjustment to the completion date for Phase 2 of the JOG program and its effect on the overall schedule. Almost all nuclear power plant licensees are participating in the JOG program as part of their response to GL 96-05. The NRC staff has prepared an SE closing its review of the responses of most licensees to GL 96-05 based on their commitment to implement the JOG program. Further, the NRC staff is conducting periodic public meetings with the JOG to discuss the status of the MOV PV program. Following completion of Phase 2 of the program, the JOG will prepare a long-term MOV periodic test program under Phase 3 and provide that program description to the NRC. The NRC staff considers the adjustment of the schedule for completion of the JOG Program on MOV PV to be acceptable in light of the ongoing progress being accomplished by the JOG in performing its MOV test program and the significant participation by individual licensees in supporting the JOG program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 692

cc: See next page

The NRC staff has reviewed the adjustment to the completion date for Phase 2 of the JOG program and its effect on the overall schedule. Almost all nuclear power plant licensees are participating in the JOG program as part of their response to GL 96-05. The NRC staff has prepared an SE closing its review of the responses of most licensees to GL 96-05 based on their commitment to implement the JOG program. Further, the NRC staff is conducting periodic public meetings with the JOG to discuss the status of the MOV PV program. Following completion of Phase 2 of the program, the JOG will prepare a long-term MOV periodic test program under Phase 3 and provide that program description to the NRC. The NRC staff considers the adjustment of the schedule for completion of the JOG Program on MOV PV to be acceptable in light of the ongoing progress being accomplished by the JOG in performing its MOV test program and the significant participation by individual licensees in supporting the JOG program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2
 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 692

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC

PDIV-2 Reading

TScarbrough

DTerao

SRichards (RidsNrrDIpmLpdiv)

JCushing (RidsNrrPMJCushing)

EPeyton (RidsNrrLAEPeyton)

(RidsOgcMailCenter)

(RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter)

Accession No: ML003761498

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDIV-2/LA	PDIV-2/SC
NAME	JCushing:lcc	EPeyton	SDembek
DATE	10/19/00	10/17/00	10/18/00

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

CE Owners Group

Project No. 692

cc:

Mr. Gordon C. Bischoff, Project Director
CE Owners Group
Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power
M.S. 9615-1932
2000 Day Hill Road
Post Office Box 500
Windsor, CT 06095

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman, Manager
Washington Operations
Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Virgil Paggen
CE Nuclear Power LLC
M. S. 9383-1922
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-1922