

April 9, 2001

Mr. J. V. Parrish  
Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Northwest  
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF BOILING WATER REACTOR VESSEL AND INTERNALS  
PROJECT BWRVIP-75 WELD EXAMINATION SCHEDULE FOR THE  
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. MB1357)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

By letter dated February 9, 2001, Energy Northwest requested approval to adopt the revised austenitic stainless steel piping weld inspection schedule criteria contained in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) proprietary report TR-113932, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Technical Basis for Revision to Generic Letter 88-01 Inspection Schedules (BWRVIP-75)," in lieu of their present commitments to Generic Letter (GL) 88-01, "NRC Position on IGSCC in BWR Austenitic Stainless Steel Piping."

The request and approval applies only to welds and piping within the scope of GL 88-01 and NUREG 0313, Rev. 2, "Technical Report on Material Selection and Processing Guidelines for BWR Coolant Pressure Boundary Piping," and is not applicable to any other welds or piping (e.g., socket welds, carbon steel piping, etc).

The NRC in a safety evaluation (SE) dated September 15, 2000, approved the BWRVIP-75 report with several open items, which would be addressed in plant specific submittals and in revised BWRVIP-75 guidelines. The staff's approval of the BWRVIP-75 report also allows licensees to utilize the as-revised BWRVIP-75 guidance in lieu of licensees' commitments to GL 88-01 and NUREG-0313, Rev. 2, or as the technical basis for a plant-specific request for a license amendment to change the technical specifications requiring GL 88-01 or NUREG-0313, Rev. 2 inspections. The staff stated in the SE that the guidelines in the BWRVIP-75 report, with modifications to address the staff's open items, will provide reasonable assurance for the structural integrity of the affected BWR piping as addressed in the BWRVIP-75 report.

The staff identified nine open items in the September 15, 2000, SE that the licensees would need to address to be able to use the BWRVIP-75 report. The open items are:

1. proposed inspection frequency and scope for category A welds,
2. proposed inspection frequency and scope for category B welds,
3. proposed inspection frequency and scope for category C welds,

4. proposed inspection frequency and scope for category E welds (weld overlay repair),
5. inspection of Category E welds (stress improved) with existing cracks,
6. sample expansion,
7. reactor water coolant conductivity,
8. effective hydrogen water chemistry (HWC) and noble metal chemical addition (NMCA) program, and
9. identification of safety significant locations.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's resolution to the open items contained in the BWRVIP-75 SE and concludes that the licensee has followed the guidance provided in the staff's SE and has adequately addressed the nine open items. Therefore, the staff approves the revised austenitic stainless steel piping weld inspection schedule criteria contained in the EPRI proprietary report TR-113932 in lieu of your present commitments to GL 88-01.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1424.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Docket No. 50-397

cc: See next page

4. proposed inspection frequency and scope for category E welds (weld overlay repair),
5. inspection of Category E welds (stress improved) with existing cracks,
6. sample expansion,
7. reactor water coolant conductivity,
8. effective hydrogen water chemistry (HWC) and noble metal chemical addition (NMCA) program, and
9. identification of safety significant locations.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's resolution to the open items contained in the BWRVIP-75 SE and concludes that the licensee has followed the guidance provided in the staff's SE and has adequately addressed the nine open items. Therefore, the staff approves the revised austenitic stainless steel piping weld inspection schedule criteria contained in the EPRI proprietary report TR-113932 in lieu of your present commitments to GL 88-01.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1424.

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Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2  
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Columbia Generating Station

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