July 23, 2001

Dr. Theodore U. Marston
Vice President Nuclear &
Chief Nuclear Officer
Electric Power Research Institute
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

Dear Dr. Marston:

I want to thank you for your letter dated June 4, 2001, regarding the cooperative program on welding of highly irradiated materials. We agree that this program has been highly beneficial. Based on samples obtained to date at several U.S. BWRs, the industry is in a better position to estimate the concentrations of boron and helium in reactor vessel components for the BWR fleet. In addition, the compositional analyses which have been performed are being used to begin enhancing fluence prediction methods. Obtaining samples from the upper and lower regions of the core shroud and from the core spray system will further support benchmarking the BWR fluence methodology, reducing and quantifying uncertainties, and improving the overall fluence prediction method.

Pending the availability of appropriated funds, we anticipate participating in the project. Mr. Wallace Norris, the NRC manager for this project, will contact Mr. Robert Thomas, EPRI project manager, to initiate extending the existing Addendum to include additional material sampling from the lower and upper regions of the core.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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