

September 21, 2001

Carl Terry, BWRVIP Chairman
Niagara Mohawk Power Company
Post Office Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO NRC REVIEW OF BWRVIP-03

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated July 15, 1999, the staff provided to you our findings regarding the staff's review of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Report TR-105696-R1, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project: Reactor Pressure Vessel and Internals Examinations Guidelines (BWRVIP-03) Revision 1," dated March 30, 1999. This report was submitted in response to the NRC staff's initial safety evaluation (SE) dated June 8, 1998, regarding your initial submittal of the BWRVIP-03 report dated November 10, 1995, as supplemented by letters dated April 16, 1996, March 12, and July 7, 1997. The BWRVIP-03 report, as revised, proposed guidelines for NDE techniques and inspection standards intended for voluntary implementation by BWR licensees in order to effectively examine and ensure the integrity of safety-related reactor pressure vessel (RPV) internal components.

In this letter, the staff found that licensee implementation of the revised guidelines in the BWRVIP-03 report provides an acceptable level of quality for examination of the safety-related components. The BWRVIP has since submitted Revisions 2 and 3, each of which contain all of the content of Revision 1 to the BWRVIP-03 report, and also incorporates additional new information, which is clearly identified as documentation of the steady development of new inspection technology. The staff has reviewed Revisions 2 and 3, and finds that these revisions to the BWRVIP-03 report have not modified the fundamental process in any significant way. Therefore, the staff has not found a necessity to issue revised (SEs) for these subsequent revisions.

The staff will continue to review future BWRVIP-03 revisions as they are submitted. If the demonstration and documentation process established in the BWRVIP-03 report, as approved by the staff, are not significantly changed, then the staff will not issue (SEs) on these later revisions. The staff will consider that licensee implementation of the latest revision to the BWRVIP-03 report will provide an acceptable level of quality for examination of the safety-related components.

To facilitate future NRC reviews, the staff requests that the BWRVIP continue to include in the front of each revision of the BWRVIP-03 report, a table clearly identifying the location and purpose of all new text.

Carl Terry

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Please contact C. E. (Gene) Carpenter, Jr., of my staff at (301) 415-2169, if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

/ra/

William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: BWRVIP Service List

Carl Terry

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Please contact C. E. (Gene) Carpenter, Jr., of my staff at (301) 415-2169, if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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