

October 18, 2001

Mr. Alexander Marion, Director  
Engineering  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Marion:

As stated previously in our letter of August 13, 2001, the staff of the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Branch has completed an acceptance review of the Seismic Experience-based Qualification Owners Group (SEQUAL) topical report, "Basis for Adoption of Experience-Based Seismic Equipment Qualification (EBSEQ) Methodology by Non-A46 Nuclear Power Plants," Revision (0), dated April 17, 2001. The EBSEQ method is proposed to be used for the qualification of equipment in nuclear power plants that are not included in the scope of Unresolved Safety Issue (USI) A-46. In the acceptance review, the staff identified eight areas of concern, seven of which were initially described in a letter from Brian W. Sheron (NRC) to Gregory Ferguson (SEQUAL), dated August 24, 2000. In meetings and phone calls subsequent to our August 13, 2001 acceptance review letter, the NRC staff and SEQUAL representatives have attempted to reach a general consensus on some of these initial concerns.

The staff will now begin a formal review of the topical report together with the recent responses provided by SEQUAL to the staff about our preliminary findings identified in the acceptance review. Attached to this letter is a schedule that contains target dates for the formal review process.

Please contact me (301-415-2832), if you have any questions.

***/RA/ Signed by P. Wen***

Peter Wen, Project Manager  
Risk Informed Initiatives, Environmental,  
Decommissioning, and Rulemaking Branch  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No.: 689  
Attachment: As stated

cc: Mr. Ralph Beedle  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Suite 400  
1776 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Alex Marion, Director  
Engineering  
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Suite 400  
1776 I Street, NW  
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Mr. John Butler, Project Manager  
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Mr. Gregory Ferguson, Chairman  
Seismic Experience-Based Qualification  
Owners Group  
Waterford 3 SES  
17265 River Road  
Kilona, LA 70066

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Distribution:

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\*see previous concurrence sheet\*

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NAME	PWen	CMunson*	SWest	KManoly*	PTKuo*	JStrosnider*
DATE	10/17/01	10/11/01	10/18 /01	10/15/ 01	10/15/01	10/17/01

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REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR SEQUAL TOPICAL REPORT, "BASIS FOR ADOPTION OF  
EXPERIENCE-BASED SEISMIC EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION (EBSEQ) METHODOLOGY  
BY NON-A46 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS."

TASK	DATE	STATUS
Staff acceptance review of topical report	04/01 to 08/01	Complete
Staff and SEQUAL discussion of acceptance review	08/01 to 10/01	Complete
Staff review of topical report	10/01 to 10/02	
• Staff Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)	01/02	
• SEQUAL Response to RAIs	03/02	
• Staff review of RAI responses	05/02	
• Staff preparation of draft safety evaluation	7/02	
• Staff issues final safety evaluation	10/02	