

November 21, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2 /RA by SDembek for
Project Directorate IV JCushing/
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2001, WITH
BABCOCK AND WILCOX OWNERS GROUP EXECUTIVES

On October 23, 2001, the staff held a public meeting with the Babcock and Wilcox Owners Group (B&WOG) at the NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange information and to provide a forum for discussion of topics related to NRC and B&WOG activities. Attachment 1 lists the meeting participants. The meeting slides are available in ADAMS with the accession number ML012990007.

The meeting opened with the Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis, Dr. Sheron, welcoming the B&WOG to the meeting. The first item on the agenda was the status of the topical reports.

Topical Reports Status

Mr. Mallay of the B&WOG discussed the status of the following topical reports:

BAW-2359, "Risk-Informed Application to In Service Testing of Air Operated Valves." Davis Besse has submitted a relief request which references the topical report. The target date is January 1, 2002.

BAW-2374, Rev. 1, "Risk-Informed Assessment of Once Through Steam Generator Thermal Loads due to Breaks in Reactor Coolant System Upper Hot Leg Large-Bore Piping." The B&WOG expressed concern about the progress of this review. The staff replied that they would set up a call in the near future to discuss the review and schedule a meeting if needed. A request for additional information was received by the B&WOG on October 18, 2001. The target date is December 30, 2001.

BAW-10046, Rev. 4, "Compliance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix G (Fracture Toughness)." Issued October 30, 2001.

BAW-1543, Rev. 4, Supplement 4, "Update to the Master Integrated Surveillance Program." Issued October 19, 2001.

BAW-2387, "Elimination of PASS." The target date is May 2002.

Plans for License Renewal

The B&WOG provided an update on license renewal for each member of the B&WOG.

Self-Identification of Design Issues

The B&WOG raised the issue that the significance determination process (SDP) penalizes licensees that are pro-active in identifying old design issues. When the licensee identifies the issue, the SDP currently does not give them credit for self-identification and they receive negative publicity and increased NRC inspection for taking the correct action to resolve design issues. The B&WOG believes that the SDP needs to be revised to not penalize licensees for such efforts while still taking risk into consideration.

The staff responded that currently all findings (white, yellow, or red) are treated equally regardless of who identifies the issue. The staff does have the flexibility within the appropriate column of the Action Matrix to determine (1) the depth of inspection due to the range of hours allotted per supplemental inspection, and (2) if additional regulatory actions (confirmatory action letter, order, demand for information) are warranted. The staff determines the range of actions based on the circumstances of the finding which would include the source of the identification.

However, the staff is currently considering a change to IMC 0305 "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," which would account for old design issues that were not reflective of current licensee performance. The logic would be very similar to the exercise of discretion for issuing violations under the enforcement policy. If certain conditions were met then the finding would not be considered for aggregation in the Action matrix and subsequently more significant agency actions.

Bulletin 2001-01, Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles

The B&WOG discussed their response to the Bulletin. In the short term, the B&WOG plants plan to inspect and repair any cracks found in the reactor pressure vessel head penetration nozzles. In the long term, Oconee has ordered new heads for 2003-2004 delivery and the rest of the B&WOG plants are considering new heads. The B&WOG also discussed their plans to address transgranular cracking. The B&WOG has documented the fabrication practices, material and inspection results for the control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) housings for B&W plants.

Dr. Sheron emphasized the need to be able to independently verify cracks that are being found with ultrasonic testing to ensure the reliability of the UT. An opportunity is lost if a crack is repaired without independently verifying the crack characteristics.

The Director of the Division of Engineering, Mr. Strosnider, said that the chemistry in the crevice needs to be understood in order to determine the crack growth rate. The follow up issues that need to be addressed will determine the scope, frequency and type of inspection and he asked that the industry participate in developing the inspection criteria. Mr. Strosnider also asked the B&WOG to help the staff process their relief requests more efficiently by sending in their relief

requests with as much lead time as possible, standardizing the relief requests, and identifying the section of the code for which they are requesting relief. The Chairman of the B&WOG, Mr. Campbell, agreed that was a reasonable request.

The Director of the Division of Systems, Safety and Analysis, Mr. Holahan, said that we should capture the lessons learned from the CRDM cracking issue. We should be pro-active and look at the overall design to determine if there are other areas where this could occur. He understood that addressing this issue requires significant resources from both the NRC and the industry, however within those constraints resources should be dedicated to look at other issues.

Mr. Campbell thought capturing the lessons learned was a good idea.

The meeting concluded with Mr. Campbell thanking the staff for their time and the former Project Manager Stewart Bailey for the good work he performed as the B&WOG Project Manager. Charlie Zimmerman, Site Vice President of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, expressed his appreciation for the ANO technical specification conversion.

Project No. 693

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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Meeting Notice: ML012820069

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDIV-2/LA	PDIV-2/SC
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MEETING WITH B&W OWNERS GROUP

OCTOBER 23, 2001

ATTENDANCE LIST

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M. Sartorius
J. Cushing
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B. Pascarelli

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