

January 29, 2002

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

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO NRC LETTER REGARDING BWRVIP RESPONSE TO  
BWRVIP-59 SAFETY EVALUATION (TAC NO. MA4467)

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated July 31, 2001, the staff provided to you our findings regarding the staff's review of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Proprietary Report TR-108710, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project: Evaluation of Crack Growth in BWR Nickel Base Austenitic Alloys in RPV Internals (BWRVIP-59)," dated December 1998, and response dated December 4, 2000, to the staff's request for additional information dated November 29, 1999. This letter provides additional clarification in response to questions raised by BWR licensees regarding the staff's conclusions in the safety evaluation.

In summary, the staff has concluded that:

- A stress intensity (K)-independent crack growth rate of  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  in/h is acceptable for plants operating on normal water chemistry (NWC) at or below the EPRI Water Chemistry Action Level 1 conditions.
- A K-independent crack growth rate of  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  in/h is acceptable for plants operating on hydrogen water chemistry (HWC) or noble metal chemical application (NMCA) at or below the EPRI Water Chemistry Action Level 1 conditions.

The staff requests that you incorporate the staff's recommendations, as well as your response to other issues raised in the staff's SE into a revised, final BWRVIP-59 report.

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

Sincerely,

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

cc: BWRVIP Service List

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Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: BWRVIP Service List

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