

May 28, 2002

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

SUBJECT: BWRVIP RESPONSE TO NRC SAFETY EVALUATION REGARDING THE
BWR INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated April 29, 2002, the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) provided a response to the NRC staff's safety evaluation (SE), dated February 1, 2002, regarding the BWRVIP's reactor pressure vessel integrated surveillance program (ISP) submittal. In the BWRVIP's response, two purposes were stated: (1) to respond to the NRC staff's SE, and (2) to request a change to the reporting of surveillance capsule results.

The NRC staff acknowledges your response to specific items noted in the staff's February 1, 2002, SE and finds that your intended course of action with regard to addressing the issues related to neutron fluence calculation appears to be adequate to support the ISP. Further, the staff understands that you are preparing guidance for BWR licensees with regard to the development of their plant-specific responses and license amendments which are necessary to implement the ISP.

You also requested an extension of the time required to report the results from the testing of the first surveillance capsule which would be tested under the ISP from September 2002 until February 2003. This capsule was removed from the River Bend Station (RBS) reactor vessel in September 2001. As noted in the BWRVIP ISP submittal and reflected in the NRC staff's February 1, 2002, SE, the BWRVIP will assume the responsibility for the testing and reporting of results from this and future BWR surveillance capsules as part of the ISP. The staff has concluded that this extension in the reporting of the results from this ISP surveillance capsule will not change the overall effectiveness of the ISP and will not affect the continued safe operation of the BWR fleet. Therefore, your request to extend this reporting requirement interval is acceptable. Since individual BWR surveillance capsule withdrawal schedules are expected to be modified to reflect the withdrawal schedules necessary to support the ISP, the licensee for RBS should note in its license amendment associated with implementation of the ISP that this extension of the reporting requirement interval was requested by the BWRVIP and approved by the NRC via this letter. Should the licensee for RBS choose not to participate in the ISP, the licensee will be required to report the results of the testing of this RBS surveillance capsule by September 2002 or request its own plant-specific extension of the reporting requirement interval as part of the ISP per Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 50, Appendix H, IV. A. However, if the RBS licensee chooses to maintain its own plant-specific surveillance program, and requests an extension in the reporting requirement interval, the staff will re-evaluate whether or not such a reporting extension is acceptable within the context of such a plant-specific surveillance program.

C. Terry

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If you should have any further questions regarding any matters associated with your implementation of the ISP, please contact either C. E. (Gene) Carpenter (301-415-2169) or Matthew A. Mitchell (301-415-3303) of my staff.

Sincerely,

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

cc: BWRVIP CC List

C. Terry

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William H. Bateman, Chief
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Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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