

September 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering

FROM: Meena Khanna, Materials Engineer */RA/*
Structural Integrity and Metallurgy Section
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JULY 25, 2002, MEETING WITH BWRVIP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS UTILITY IMPLEMENTATION
OF BWRVIP PRODUCTS

On July 25, 2002, a public meeting was held with NRR management and the BWRVIP Executive Committee to discuss utility implementation of BWRVIP products. NRR requested the meeting to follow up on an inspection finding that indicated potential weaknesses in BWRVIP program implementation. The BWRVIP Executive Committee provided a presentation of the results of their self assessments, the BWR Vessel and Internals Project Program Implementation Guide (BWRVIP-94) which was designed to provide guidance to member utilities on program implementation, the results of the INPO review visits, and lessons learned from the self assessments and the INPO review visits. The meeting attendees are listed in Attachment 1. The BWRVIP's handouts are provided in Attachments 2 and 3. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

The BWRVIP Committee provided a discussion of the following initiatives that were being taken in order to ensure effective utility implementation of BWRVIP products: (1) BWRVIP utilities are committed to implementation of BWRVIP products, (2) BWRVIP self assessments were initiated in 2000, (3) BWRVIP-94, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Program Implementation Guide" was published in August 2001, (4) INPO review visits were initiated in 2001 and initial INPO visits at all plants are scheduled to be completed in 2002, and (5) BWRVIP assistance with implementation is being provided as needed. There was also a brief discussion of current key BWRVIP activities.

Immediately following the BWRVIP Committee discussion, a representative of INPO provided an overview of the INPO BWR Vessel Internals Review Visits. It was stated that the purpose of these review visits are to ensure that utilities have vessel and internals management programs in place to promote safe and reliable operation and to ensure consistent interpretation and application of BWRVIP guidelines. The scope of these review visits include inspections and flaw analysis, repairs, mitigation, leak detection and equipment monitoring, and program management.

The representative of INPO indicated that the review team consisted of an INPO Team Leader, INPO chemistry evaluator and peer, 2-3 peers knowledgeable of guidelines that were selected based on plant-specific needs (inspections and flaw evaluations and repairs), NDE visual level III, and EPRI. The scope of the review is based on a weld-by-weld review for each internal component as recommended by the BWRVIP. This review included high and low priority components, quality of inspections (NDE), mitigation, vendor recommendations, interviews of senior management, and leak detection and equipment monitoring.

A status of the program was provided. To date, nine INPO review visits have been completed since July 2001. Five additional visits are scheduled by the end of 2002. The trends and summary of results have been shared with BWRVIP Executives, industry peers, and operations/outage managers. The results of the visits, thus far, have revealed that plants are following BWRVIP guidelines, safety functions are being maintained, and the program owner is knowledgeable. The review visits also revealed that some inspections have been unnecessarily deferred and that, in some instances, oversight of vendor activities have been weak. INPO informs the BWRVIP executive committee of the inspection findings and they are shared with the industry. The significant issues/inspection findings require a utility response to INPO and will be reviewed during the next INPO evaluation.

The staff indicated that the INPO review visits are an enhancement to the BWRVIP program and agreed that the visits would benefit the BWRVIP plants in regards to program implementation. The staff will continue to interact with the BWRVIP executive committee, as appropriate, regarding the effective implementation of the BWRVIP program.

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Meeting Attendees
(Attachment 1)
Region I DRS
Region II DRS
Region III DRS
Region V DRS

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Meeting with NRC and BWRVIP Executive Committee List of Meeting Attendees - July 25, 2002

Lewis Sumner, SNC
Robin Dyle, SNC
Carl Terry, Constellation
Larry Steinert, EPRI
Tom Mulford, EPRI
Vaughn Wagoner, CP&L
John Wilson, Exelon
David Berko, INPO
George Vanderheyden, Exelon
A.J. Wrape, III
Brian Sheron, NRC
Stephanie Coffin, NRC
Gene Carpenter, NRC
Meena Khanna, NRC
Wes Held, NRC
Chris Long, NRC
Mohan Thadani, NRC