

October 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: William Ruland, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Drew Holland, Project Manager, Section 2 /RA/
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2002, SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH THE BABCOCK AND WILCOX OWNERS GROUP TO DISCUSS ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

On September 25, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) senior management met with the Babcock and Wilcox Owners Group (B&WOG) senior management to discuss items of mutual interest. Mr. Collins (NRC) and Mr. McCollum (B&WOG) provided opening remarks.

The first discussion topic dealt with reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head inspections that have taken place among the Babcock and Wilcox plants. The B&WOG summarized the actions it has taken over the last decade or so concerning reactor vessel head inspections. They summarized the responses made by the five member companies to NRC Bulletin 2002-02 and the basis for those responses. The B&WOG considered that they have been very responsive to bulletin inspection requirements and have made repairs accordingly. The B&WOG mentioned that they will be interested in developing inspection methods for the future that will better characterize RPV head penetration flaws. The staff indicated that we should work together on a program to better understand the effects of boric acid on the reactor coolant system piping and welds as well as the RPV head. The B&WOG indicated that they had no plans for doing any subsequent inspections or metallography on the RPV heads that will be discarded. The staff requested that they consider using the discarded heads to test/improve inspections techniques and to perform metallography on the flawed material.

For the next discussion topic, the B&WOG considered what has been happening with regard to RPV head replacements. They summarized the time line for the replacements to occur at each one of the units (all B&WOG plants will replace RPV heads). Mr. Sheron (NRC) stressed the importance for uniformity in codes, methods, and inspections to be used for the new heads. The staff also indicated that we should take advantage of the existing lead time to discuss generic materials issues and criteria for 10 CFR 50.59 reviews that must be done for the head replacements.

The presentation then focused on the review of Topical Report BAW-2374, Revision 1, "Risk-Informed Assessment of Once-Through Steam Generator Tube Thermal Loads Due to Breaks in Reactor Coolant System Upper Hot Leg Large Bore Piping." The B&WOG expressed concern over the time spent on this review and its cost. In addition, they expressed that this

scenario should be clearly defensible through probabilistic analysis. Ms. Black (NRC) outlined key events during the review of this topical report and the difficulties encountered by the staff. She indicated that the topical report will be presented for consideration to the applicable agency panel in late November 2002, to determine the appropriateness of probabilistic risk assessment methods for the event the topical report describes. The B&WOG indicated that the success of this review will significantly influence their future use of risk-informed submittals. Mr. Collins (NRC) stated that he would look into getting some fee relief for invoices paid by the B&WOG thus far in reviewing the topical report.

The discussion then shifted to plant safeguards. The B&WOG desired a general discussion on the topic. Their interest was in security initiatives required over the past year and the substantial effect it has had on utility resources. Some indication from the staff on what would be required in the future was desired. In response to this request, Ms. Good (NRC) gave an overview that responded to their request. She indicated that during the upcoming year the design basis threat would be reviewed, vulnerability assessments would be performed, expanded table top exercises would take place, some force-on-force exercises would be conducted, investigations into adversary characteristics would be performed, and that other orders and interim compensatory measures (ICMs) are likely. The B&WOG mentioned the apparent long time it takes to downgrade from a CONDITION ORANGE required by Homeland Security (HLS). They were interested in the lines of communication between the NRC and HLS and if the relaxation from heightened security conditions might be made more efficient.

Action items agreed to:

1. The B&WOG will take action to standardize materials, codes, methods and inspections with regard to the new RPV heads, but particularly future inspections.
2. The NRC will consider using the discarded RPV heads for metallography of flaws and for inspection method/technique development.
3. The review of BAW-2374 will be considered for a risk-informed approach review by the end of November 2002. (Ms. Black-NRC)
4. The regulatory fees already paid in connection with item 3 will be considered for reduction. (Mr. Collins-NRC)
5. The NRC will notify HLS that a delayed return to CONDITION YELLOW from CONDITION ORANGE has a big impact on nuclear power plant resources. (Ms. Good-NRC)

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Attachment: Meeting Attendees

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B&W Owners Group

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cc:

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B&WOG Executive Committee
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Director, Regulatory Affairs
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SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING
BETWEEN NRC AND THE BABCOCK & WILCOX OWNERS GROUP

ATTENDANCE LIST

September 25, 2002

B&WOG

B. Williams, Exelon-TMI
W. McCollum, Duke Energy-Oconee
D. Young, Florida Power-Crystal River
T. Christopher, Framatome ANP
D. Firth, Framatome ANP
H. Crawford, AmerGen-TMI
M. Schoppman, Framatome ANP
D. Janecek, Framatome ANP
L. Myers, First Energy Nuclear Operating Co.
G. Mignogna, Framatome ANP

WESTINGHOUSE

C. Brinkman

SERCH LICENSING/BECHTEL

A. Wyche

NRC

S. Collins
B. Sheron
S. Dembek
S. Black
G. Good
T. Chan
W. Lyon
F. Akstulewicz
L. Marsh
S. Wong
M. Johnson

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