September 9, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Alan B. Wang, Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH THE BOILING WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP (BWROG) CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW REACTOR CORE STABILITY LIMIT

On August 15, 2003, an open meeting was held between the BWROG and the NRC staff to discuss the BWROG efforts to develop a new reactor core stability limit. The new stability limit was to provide the best basis for the final resolution of this issue with the class of boiling water reactors (BWR) referred to as the "detect and suppress" (D&S) plants. In June 2001, GE Nuclear Energy (GENE) reported that generic delta I versus oscillation magnitude (DIVOM) curves could be non-conservative. This resulted in a 10 CFR Part 21 notification. Individual plants implemented corrective actions as a result and the BWROG D&S Committee was formed to develop a new generic DIVOM correlation.

Mike May opened the meeting with a short description of the Nine Mile Point 2 instability event. His main point was that Nine Mile had an instability event and the operating power range monitor (OPRM) scrammed the reactor as designed. The staff had several questions including: (1) where was the plant in the power flow map, (2) what would have happened at a plant without an operable OPRM, and (3) were the oscillations core wide or regional? Mr. May noted that the licensee is still analyzing the event and these questions need to be answered at a later meeting.

Mr. May provided a background of the stability effort. He noted that based on several considerations, the BWROG has decided that the best alternative is development of plant-specific DIVOM curves. Mr. Wermiel of the NRC staff noted that this has always been an option to the industry. He stated that a response to the Part 21 notification still needed to be made. In addition, he wanted a letter from the BWROG providing a plan from industry to resolve this issue. Mr. May noted that the BWROG can only make recommendations to its members. He noted that the BWROG needs to digest what was said today to determine their next actions, but he understands what Mr. Wermiel is looking for. He agreed to let the NRC staff know their course of action within 2 weeks. Mr. Wermiel stated that this issue has been unresolved too long and agrees that a resolution finally looks in hand.

The staff thanked the BWROG for the presentation. This meeting was informational. No regulatory decisions were made. An attendance list is attached. The meeting handouts can be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML032330211.

Project No. 691

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

The staff thanked the BWROG for the presentation. This meeting was informational. No regulatory decisions were made. An attendance list is attached. The meeting handouts can be found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML032330211.

Project No. 691

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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MEETING WITH THE BOILING WATER REACTORS OWNERS GROUP

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW REACTOR CORE STABILITY LIMIT

AUGUST 15, 2003

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J. Head (Entergy)
B. Myers (Detroit Edison)
M. May (Exelon)
D. Pruitt (Framatome)
S. Bier (PSE&G)
B. Harris (Westinghouse)
J. Fisher (Energy Northwest)

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