

October 14, 2003

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

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

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2003, WITH
WESTINGHOUSE (TAC NO. MB1365)

On September 9, 2003, representatives of Westinghouse met with the NRC staff to discuss the use of a mechanical nozzle seal assembly (MNSA) on penetrations from the reactor vessel.

Westinghouse presented MNSA-2 as a contingency repair method for the reactor pressure vessel bottom head. Westinghouse also claimed that under a code interpretation, the MNSA could be used as a permanent repair. The staff was pleased with the demonstration and ended the meeting with an explanation of its current position. The staff will continue to review requests by licensees to install MNSAs to repair leaking partial penetration welds in the reactor coolant pressure boundary (RCPB). At this time, these requests will be reviewed as temporary repairs, not to exceed TWO fuel cycles. MNSA repair requests may be proposed for all RCPB partial penetration welds including those in the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) bottom head.

The staff will review the MNSA temporary repair option in conjunction with licensee ASME Code relief requests. The staff anticipates that any licensee who wishes to install a MNSA repair will need, at a minimum, two ASME Code relief requests regarding not performing successive reexaminations of flaws left in service in the area of the J-groove weld being repaired and to use a mechanical seal to replace a weld. A review of the repair will need to be conducted in order to conclude that the repair is adequate to replace the now-flawed original J-groove weld as the pressure boundary.

The staff will consider permitting the use of a MNSA as a permanent repair option in conjunction with ASME Code action to explicitly address a MNSA repair in Sections III and XI of the Code. It is the staff's position that a Code Case should be developed which will lead to mechanical connections being identified in ASME Code Section III as an acceptable way of joining some nozzles to the Class 1 RCPB (similar to NB-3350 for welded joints) with inservice inspection requirements specifically addressed in Section XI. This would establish the MNSA option on "equal footing" with partial penetrations welds, which it should be if it is to be acceptable as a permanent repair.

It is also the staff's opinion that a parallel action should be undertaken in ASME Code Section XI, IWB-2500 to establish appropriate inservice inspection requirements for mechanical joints permanently connecting nozzles to the RCPB. The staff is in the process of developing a detailed position regarding what inservice inspection requirements may be necessary for the MNSA and associated base metal.

Following the meeting, the staff expressed its appreciation to Westinghouse for the presentation. An attendance list is provided in the attachment. The non-proprietary slides used during the meeting are available in ADAMS under accession number ML032600770.

Project No. 700

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att:

Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager
Owners Group Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. H. A. Sepp, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

It is also the staff's opinion that a parallel action should be undertaken in ASME Code Section XI, IWB-2500 to establish appropriate inservice inspection requirements for mechanical joints permanently connecting nozzles to the RCPB. The staff is in the process of developing a detailed position regarding what inservice inspection requirements may be necessary for the MNSA and associated base metal.

Following the meeting, the staff expressed its appreciation to Westinghouse for the presentation. An attendance list is provided in the attachment. The non-proprietary slides used during the meeting are available in ADAMS under accession number ML032600770.

Project No. 700

Attachment: Meeting Attendees

cc w/att:

Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager
Owners Group Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. H. A. Sepp, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter	TChan
PDIV-2 Reading	BBateman	TMensha
RidsNrrDlpm (TMarsh/ELeeds)	KManoly	
RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv (HBerkow)	SDinsmore	
RidsNrrPMBBenney	MMitchell	
RidsNrrLAEPeyton	MHartzman	
RidsOgcRp	WKoo	
BElliot	SSheng	
PSekerak	SCoffin	

Package No.: ML032890792

Meeting Notice No.: ML032370440

ADAMS Accession No.: ML032890754

NRC-001

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDIV-2/LA	EMCB	PDIV-2/SC
NAME	BBenney	EPeyton	BBateman	SDembek
DATE	9/30/03	9/30/03	10/2/03	10/6/03

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIV-2\Westinghouse (Vendor)\MTG summary MNSA.wpd
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

MEETING ATTENDEES

MEETING WITH WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

WESTINGHOUSE

J. Galembush
E. Siegel
D. Sibiga
S. Sancaktar
V. Paggen
J. McGarry
B. Hinton
G. Elder
C. Brinkman

OTHERS

W. Sims (Entergy)
R. Cavalieri (Exelon)
J. Hufnagel (Exelon)
G. Gerzen (Exelon)
D. Claudlo (Framatome ANP)
D. Markowski (Ginna)

NRC

B. Benney
S. Dembek
M. Hartzman
B. Elliot
K. Manoly
B. Bateman
M. Mitchell
P. Sekerak
S. Dinsmore
W. Koo
S. Sheng