

August 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Cathy Haney, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Joseph L. Birmingham, Project Manager */RA/*
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JULY 30, 2004 MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY
INSTITUTE (NEI) AND MATERIALS RELIABILITY PROGRAM ON
BUTT WELD SAFETY ASSESSMENT

On July 30, 2004, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI) Materials Reliability Program (MRP) and industry in a public meeting at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. A list of meeting attendees is provided in Attachment 1 of this memorandum. At this meeting, industry discussed its Safety Assessment for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds including a review of actions recommended by MRP for industry and results of field inspections. Industry presented information in MRP-113 which is a summary document for the MRP's Butt Weld Safety Assessment. The industry presentation included an overview of the content of MRP-113, a summary of butt weld locations, a description of field experience, safety assessment calculations, safety assessment conclusions, leak before break strategy, and status of development of the butt weld inspection and examination guidelines. Detailed information on the industry presentation is available in Attachment 2 to this memorandum (ADAMS Accession No. ML042160480) which is the viewgraphs presented by industry at the meeting.

Industry has submitted MRP-113 to NRC for information and will submit the supporting reports upon request.

Notable conclusions of the MRP regarding Alloy 600 butt welds were that there was not an immediate safety concern, that "Needed" actions for visual inspection of Alloy 82/182 butt welds had been issued under NEI 03-08 ("Needed" is an NEI 03-08 category), and that inspection and examination (I&E) guidelines were being developed. Industry plans to meet with NRC to review their approach and obtain feedback in the Fall of 2004, and that NEI\MRP plan to issue "Mandatory" requirements under NEI 03-08 when the I&E guidelines were ready.

The NRC staff asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation but did not comment on the conclusions presented by the MRP as the staff had not reviewed the information in detail.

C. Haney

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The staff agreed that the meeting had been beneficial in updating the staff on the status of industry's actions and in contributing to the staff's understanding of the breadth of industry's efforts for the butt weld safety assessment.

After responding to public questions and comments the staff adjourned the meeting.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

cc: w/atts: See list

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- 2 -

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Attachments: As stated

cc: w/atts: See list

ADAMS Accession No.:ML042360034

OFFICE	RPRP	EMCB\SC	RPRP\SC
NAME	JBirmingham	TChan	EMcKenna
DATE	08/16/2004	08/18/2004	08/23/2004

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**List of Attendees for July 30, 2004 Meeting with
Material Reliability Program on Butt Weld Safety Assessment**

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Terence Chan	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Keith Wichman	NRC/NRR/EMCB
William Koo	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Ken Karwoski	NRC/NRR/EMCB
John Tsao	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Jay Collins	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Steve Long	NRC/NRR/SPSB
Joe Birmingham	NRC/DRIP/RPRP
Warren Bamford	Westinghouse
Ben Grambau	AREVA
Heshan Gunawardane	AREVA
Frank Ammirato	EPRI
Dulal Bhowmick	Westinghouse
Glenn White	Dominion Engineering
Jim Riley	NEI
Christine King	EPRI
Larry Matthews	Southern Nuclear
Michael Robinson	Duke Power
Marcos Horrera	Structural Integrity Associates
Dana Covill	Progress Energy-MRP
Dan Horner	McGraw Hill

Nuclear Energy Institute

Project No. 689

cc: Via email

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Distribution: Mtg w/NEI MRP&EPRI on butt weld SA 7/30/04
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WCullen
JBirmingham
AHiser
SLong
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KKarwoski