

July 25, 2005

Bill Eaton, BWRVIP Chairman
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Echelon One
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213-8202

SUBJECT: NRC APPROVAL LETTER OF BWRVIP-48-A, "BWR VESSEL AND
INTERNALS PROJECT VESSEL ID ATTACHMENT WELD INSPECTION AND
FLAW EVALUATION GUIDELINES"

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated November 18, 2004, the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) submitted Proprietary Report BWRVIP-48-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Vessel ID Attachment Weld Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," for NRC staff review.

The BWRVIP-48-A report provides generic guidelines for the inspection and evaluation (I&E) of the attachment welds, with the objective to ensure the long term integrity of the safety-related components. A secondary objective is to recommend additional inspections of non-safety-related attachment welds to assess the possibility that cracks which initiate at the attachments might propagate into the vessel wall. The guidelines provide recommendations for nondestructive evaluation (NDE) methods, inspection locations and inspection frequencies. The BWRVIP-48-A report also recommends acceptable methods for use in evaluating the structural integrity significance of the flaws that are detected during the examinations.

The BWRVIP-48-A report presents a compilation of information from several sources: the subject proprietary report, BWRVIP responses to NRC staff requests for additional information (RAIs) regarding the subject report, and the NRC staff's final safety evaluation (SE) dated September 29, 1999.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information in the BWRVIP-48-A report and has found that the report accurately incorporates all of the relevant information which was submitted by the BWRVIP in the documents noted above to support NRC staff approval of the report. The staff found that minimal technical changes were made in the production of the BWRVIP-48-A report. The only technical change that was noted was that the BWRVIP revised Section 4.3 of the BWRVIP-48-A report on flaw evaluation methodology based on an open item in the staff's initial safety evaluation dated March 21, 1999. The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately modified Section 4.3 of the BWRVIP-48-A report to address the staff's recommendation that the BWRVIP expand the details of the flaw evaluation methodology and approach. Also, the staff noted that several editorial changes were made in the report. The staff confirmed that the editorial changes did not impact the technical aspects of the report.

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Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-48-A report is acceptable. Please contact Meena Khanna of my staff at (301) 415-2150 if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: As stated

cc: See next page

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Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-48-A report is acceptable. Please contact Meena Khanna of my staff at (301) 415-2150 if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: As stated

cc: See next page

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