

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.

B. Eaton

-2-

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

B. Eaton

-2-

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

Distribution:

EMCB R/F  
EMCB A  
AHiser  
ALee  
CE Moyer  
WCullen  
RLorson, R1  
MLesser, R2  
DHills, R3  
CMarschall, R4

ADAMS Accession No.: ML052130284

INDICATE IN BOX: "C"=COPY W/O ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE, "E"=COPY W/ATT/ENCL, "N"=NO COPY

OFFICE	EMCB:DE	E	EMCB:DE	E	EMCB:DE	E
NAME	MKhanna		MMitchell		WHBateman	
DATE	07/25/2005		07/25/2005		07/25/2005	

cc:

Tom Mulford, EPRI BWRVIP  
Integration Manager  
Raj Pathania, EPRI BWRVIP  
Mitigation Manager  
Ken Wolfe, EPRI BWRVIP  
Repair Manager  
Larry Steinert, EPRI BWRVIP  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
3412 Hillview Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

George Inch, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Assessment Committee  
Constellation Nuclear  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (M/S ESB-1)  
348 Lake Road  
Lycoming, NY 13093

William C. Holston, Executive Chairman  
BWRVIP Integration Committee  
Constellation Generation Group  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station  
P. O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Richard Ciemiewicz, Technical Vice Chairman  
BWRVIP Assessment Committee  
Exelon Corp.  
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
M/S SMB3-6  
1848 Lay Road  
Delta, PA 17314-9032

Al Wrape, Executive Chairman  
BWRVIP Assessment Committee  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
2 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Allentown, PA 18101-1139

H. Lewis Sumner, Executive Chairman  
BWRVIP Mitigation Committee  
Vice President, Hatch Project  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
M/S BIN B051, P.O. BOX 1295  
40 Inverness Center Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809

Robin Dyle, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Integration Committee  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway (M/S B234)

Robert Carter, EPRI BWRVIP  
Assessment Manager  
Greg Selby, EPRI BWRVIP  
Inspection Manager  
EPRI NDE Center  
P.O. Box 217097  
1300 W. T. Harris Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28221

Denver Atwood, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Repair Focus Group  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
Post Office Box 1295  
40 Inverness Center Parkway (M/S B031)  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809

Jeff Goldstein, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Mitigation Committee  
Entergy Nuclear NE  
440 Hamilton Ave. (M/S K-WPO-11c)  
White Plains, NY 10601

Dale Atkinson, BWRVIP Liason to EPRI  
Nuclear Power Council  
Energy Northwest  
Columbia Generating Station (M/S PEO8)  
P. O. Box 968  
Snake River Complex  
North Power Plant Loop  
Richland, WA 99352-0968

Jim Meister, BWRVIP Vice-Chairman  
Exelon Corp.  
Cornerstone II at Cantera  
4300 Winfield Rd.  
Warrenville, IL 60555-4012

Charles J. Wirtz, Chairman  
BWRVIP Inspection Focus Group  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
Perry Nuclear Power Plant (M/S A250)  
10 Center Road  
Perry, OH 44081

B. Eaton

-2-

Birmingham, AL 35242-4809