

August 29, 2005

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

SUBJECT: NRC APPROVAL LETTER OF BWRVIP-26-A, "BWR VESSEL AND
INTERNALS PROJECT BOILING WATER REACTOR TOP GUIDE
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-26-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Boiling Water Reactor Top Guide Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review.

The BWRVIP-26-A report provides generic guidelines intended to present the appropriate inspection recommendations to assure safety function integrity of the top guide safety-related RPV internal components. The report also provides design information on the top guide, geometries, weld locations, and potential failure locations for the several categories of BWRs (BWR/2 through BWR/6).

The BWRVIP-26-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-26-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-26-A report. The first revision was that the BWRVIP added a footnote to Items 9 and 9.a in Table 3-2 of the BWRVIP-26-A report to address the staff's Open Item 3.2.2. Open Item 3.2.2 was with regard to the staff's recommendation that, for those locations requiring a VT-3 every 10 years, the BWRVIP clarify the report to state that a baseline inspection would be required. In addition, the staff recommended that this baseline inspection take place before the beginning of the 10-year inspection interval if inspections comparable to a VT-3 had not been performed. The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately modified Table 3-2 of the BWRVIP-26-A report to address the staff's recommendation by revising the text to indicate that the licensees are to inspect the subject locations that have not been inspected by a method comparable to a VT-3 at the next outage.

For the second revision, the BWRVIP decided to provide further clarification to Items 2 and 3 of Table 3-2 and added the statement, "Subsequent inspections may involve the same or different aligner assemblies. If cracking is found..." and to Item 8 of Table 3-2, the BWRVIP added, "Subsequent inspections may involve the same or different hold-down devices." The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately modified Table 3-2 of the BWRVIP-26-A report to further clarify the inspection requirements for aligner assemblies and hold-down devices.

The last revision was with respect to the deletion of Section 3.3 of the BWRVIP-26-A report. The BWRVIP determined that all reporting requirements would be removed from the BWRVIP-26-A report since they are already contained in the BWRVIP-94 report, "Program Implementation Guide." The staff found this acceptable because all reporting requirements for inspection and evaluation guidelines are adequately included in the BWRVIP-94 report.

Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-26-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 by M. Mitchell for W. Bateman)/

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

Attachment: As stated

cc: See next page

For the second revision, the BWRVIP decided to provide further clarification to Items 2 and 3 of Table 3-2 and added the statement, "Subsequent inspections may involve the same or different aligner assemblies. If cracking is found..." and to Item 8 of Table 3-2, the BWRVIP added, "Subsequent inspections may involve the same or different hold-down devices." The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately modified Table 3-2 of the BWRVIP-26-A report to further clarify the inspection requirements for aligner assemblies and hold-down devices.

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William H. Bateman, Chief
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