

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-42-A, "BWR VESSEL AND  
INTERNALS PROJECT BOILING WATER REACTOR LOW PRESSURE  
COOLANT INJECTION AND FLAW EVALUATION GUIDELINES"

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated March 30, 2005, the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) submitted Proprietary Report BWRVIP-42-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project Boiling Water Reactor Low Pressure Coolant Injection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines," for NRC staff review.

The BWRVIP-42-A report provides generic guidelines on inspection and flaw evaluation of low pressure coolant injection (LPCI) couplings. The BWRVIP took into consideration degradation susceptibility, degradation mechanisms, loads, and inspection strategies for LPCI couplings in the BWRVIP-42-A guidelines. The intent of the report is provide inspection and flaw evaluation guidance to BWRVIP members that can be used to assure adequate BWR LPCI coupling integrity when meeting the specified acceptance criteria.

The BWRVIP-42-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 January 9, 2001.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information in the BWRVIP-42-A report and has found that the report accurately incorporates all of the relevant information 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-42-A report. The first revision was with respect to Open Item 3.3.4 of the staff's SE on the BWRVIP-03 report, "Reactor Pressure Vessel and Internals Examination Guidelines." The staff required that "all BWRVIP inspection and evaluation guidelines be revised to replace Core Spray VT-1 (CSVT-1) and modified visual testing (MVT-1) by enhanced visual testing (EVT-1), VT-1, or VT-3. In addition, EVT-1 is to be specified as the primary technique when fine, tight IGSCC is a primary concern. In all other locations, VT-1 or VT-3 will be used as appropriate." Therefore, in response to this open item, the BWRVIP revised Section 3.3 and Table 3-1, to replace "MVT-1" with "EVT-1." The staff found that the BWRVIP adequately revised the applicable sections of the BWRVIP-42-A report to address Open Item 3.3.4 of the BWRVIP-03 report.

The second revision was with respect to the deletion of Section 3.7, "Reporting of Inspection Requirements," of the BWRVIP-42-A report. The BWRVIP determined that all reporting requirements would be removed from the BWRVIP-42-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.

Also, the staff noted that a couple of minor clarifications were made in the report. The staff confirmed that the clarifications did not impact the technical aspects of the report.

Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-42-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

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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

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

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

Denver Atwood, 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

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

Amir Shahkarami  
BWRVIP Executive Oversight Committee Member  
Exelon Corporation  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555-4012

Robin Dyle, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Integration Committee  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway (M/S B234)  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809

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

Rick Libra  
BWRVIP Executive Oversight Committee Member  
DTE Energy  
6400 N Dixie Hwy (M/S 280 OBA)  
Newport, MI 48166-9726