

October 18, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Eileen M. McKenna, Acting Program Director  
Reactor Policy and Rulemaking Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2005, MEETING WITH INDUSTRY  
AND THE MATERIALS RELIABILITY PROJECT ON LONG-TERM  
INSPECTION PLANS FOR BOTTOM MOUNTED INSTRUMENTATION

On September 29, 2005, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI) Material Reliability Project (MRP), and industry in a public meeting at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. Attachment 1 provides a list of those in attendance at the meeting and additional industry representatives who participated via teleconference. Attachment 2 is information presented by industry at the meeting and is available in the NRC Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession number ML052720445.

At this meeting, industry presented an update of its strategic plan for detection and control of leakage and corrosion of bottom mounted instrumentation (BMI). Industry previously met with NRC on this issue in a meeting November 25, 2003 (see ADAMS Accession Number ML040280157) and in a teleconference July 19, 2004 (see ADAMS Accession Number ML042160490). Industry indicated that they initiated activities to evaluate the consequences of degradation of the reactor vessel bottom head penetrations from pressurized water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) in 1998 although concern for the issue accelerated after boric acid residue was detected on the reactor vessel bottom at South Texas Project Unit 1, April 12, 2003.

During the meeting, industry reviewed the status of interactions between the NRC and industry on the issue noting that the EPRI MRP had issued a letter requesting sites to perform bare metal visual inspections of the reactor vessel lower head. The NRC issued Generic Letter 2003-02 requesting specific information on licensee plans for inspections in light of the information from South Texas. The NRC and industry continued to exchange information on the results of industry actions and findings as noted in the above referenced meeting and teleconference.

After discussing the past actions of the staff and industry, industry described the details of the integrated interim inspection plan that was implemented pending development of a long-term inspection plan. Industry described the results of the industry-wide bare metal visual

inspections and the volumetric inspections that were performed on a sampling basis. These inspections found no indications of service-induced degradation or leakage. Industry provided presentations on other parts of its integrated assessment including:

- The Nondestructive Examination Demonstration Program
- Bottom Mounted Nozzle Repair Attributes
- The Safety Assessment Results, and the
- Bottom Mounted Nozzle Management Plan Development

Details of these activities are in Attachment 2. Industry discussed its plans to initiate writing the bottom mounted nozzle degradation management plan in January 2006 although no specific date was given for its expected completion. The staff indicated that there may be followup questions on industry's safety assessment. The staff asked industry to consider the need for an interim inspection program which industry agreed to consider. Industry noted that there were ongoing aspects of the existing inspection plan such as the volumetric examinations on a sampling basis.

Industry agreed to update the staff if there was any significant information from future inspections and also agreed to a meeting or teleconference with the staff in early to mid 2006 to update the staff on the progress of the Bottom Mounted Nozzle Management Plan.

After answering questions from the public, the meeting was adjourned.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

List of Attendees for Meeting  
 Reactor Vessel Bottom Nozzle Instrumentation Inspection  
 September 29, 2005

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Jim Riley	NEI
Christine King	EPRI
Chris Morgan	Westinghouse
Mel Arey	Duke Power
Dave Bajumma	Dominion Nuclear/WOG
Craig Harrington	TXU Power
Glenn White	Dominion
William Simms	Entergy Ops.
Greg Kammerdeiner	First Energy
Warren Bamford	Westinghouse
Stanley Levinson	Areva/Framatome ANP
Ben Grambau	Areva/Framatome ANP
Joseph Goebel	ENTERGY Indian Point
Fred Whytsell	Wesdyne/Westinghouse
Altheia Wyche	SERCH Licensing Bechtel
Daniel Horner	McGraw Hill
Edmund Sullivan	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Mathew Mitchell	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Jay Collins	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Eric Reichelt	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Ganesh Cheruvenki	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Steven Monarque	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Joseph Birmingham	NRC/NRR/RPRP
David Roth	NRC/NRR
John Tsao	NRC/NRR/DE/EMCB
Bob Hardies	NRC/NRR
Kiyoto Tanabe	NRC/NRR/DRIP Japan NISA
*Russ Warren	INPO
*Larry Matthews	INPO (Southern Nuclear)
*Larry Butcavage	Westinghouse
*Bruce Bishop	Westinghouse
*Josh Hartz	Westinghouse
*Dick Haessler	Westinghouse

\* Via teleconference

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Memo to McKenna from Joseph L. Birmingham dated October 18, 2005

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