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Docket No.: 50-321

NL-06-0685

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant – Unit 1  
Notification of Deviations from BWRVIP-76 and BWRVIP-84

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Per a prior agreement with the NRC, BWR utilities that are part of the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) (Enclosure) agreed that participating licensees will provide timely notification to the NRC staff of a decision by the licensee to not fully implement the applicable BWRVIP product. Plant Hatch Unit 1 will not fully implement the subject guidance of the BWRVIP, with respect to horizontal welds on the Core Shroud contained in BWRVIP-76 (Core Shroud and Inspection Guidelines) and material selection criteria contained in BWRVIP-84 (Guidelines for Selection and Use of Materials for Repairs to BWR Internal Components).

During Hatch Unit 1 Refueling Outage 22, upper support arms at two of the four core shroud stabilizer locations were found with indications, one at 135 degrees and one at 225 degrees. SNC resolved those indications by performing an examination of core shroud horizontal welds. SNC determined through that examination that sufficient shroud horizontal weld ligament was present and acceptable for at least a cycle of operation. In addition, the shroud stabilizer at 135 degrees was repaired.

Core Shroud BWRVIP Inspection and Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-76) specify an inspection scope of 100 percent of the accessible horizontal welds. Examination of 100 percent of the accessible areas of the horizontal welds was not performed for the following reasons:

- the emergent nature of the examinations;
- justifying a long term interval for re-inspection was not the objective;
- the limited availability of inspection equipment and qualified personnel.

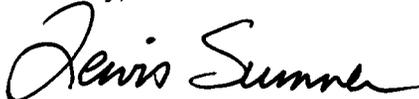
Based on the criteria in BWRVIP-76, Appendix D, an ultrasonic examination scope was determined to ensure the remaining ligament needed for one operating cycle existed on welds H1 through H7. The examination results and subsequent plant specific evaluation provide assurance that the horizontal welds provided the necessary structural support.

BWRVIP Guidelines for Selection and Use of Materials for Repairs to BWR Internal Components (BWRVIP-84) provide criteria for limiting peak stresses for repaired components. The replacement upper support pieces for the 135 degree shroud stabilizer assembly used a like kind replacement which restored the tie rod to the original design specification. However, the original design predates BWRVIP-84 criteria for peak stresses. A redesign of one tie rod assembly, while leaving the other three as-is, was not considered acceptable. The lead time for replacement material and lack of available material precluded a total redesign without an excessive outage extension. Additionally, the tie rod assembly at the 225 degree location was not repaired due to the lack of available material.

The deviations from the BWRVIP guidelines have been prepared, reviewed, and approved in accordance with SNC internal procedures. The review provides assurance that there are no safety implications or reliability concerns with the deviations. The shroud and shroud stabilizer recovery efforts and results including these deviations were discussed in a March 24 teleconference between SNC, NRR and Region II. If desired, further review of the deviations and supporting technical material can be arranged.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



H. L. Sumner, Jr.

HLS/PAH/sdl

Enclosure: BWRVIP letter dated May 30, 1997, to the NRC Reaffirming BWR Utility Commitments to the BWRVIP.

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President  
Mr. D. R. Madison, General Manager – Plant Hatch  
RTYPE: CHA02.004

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator  
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Hatch  
Mr. D. S. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector – Hatch

# BWRVIP

BWR Vessel &  
Internals Project

Issue Management and Resolution

May 30, 1997

Document Control Desk  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Brian Sheron

Subject: BWR Utility Commitments to the BWRVIP

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm the BWR utility commitments to the goals, objectives and products of the BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP).

All 21 U. S. BWR/2-6 utilities identified in Attachment 1 have been active members of the BWRVIP since its inception in 1994. The BWRVIP utility members are proud of the record and successes achieved by the BWRVIP and we will continue to complete the activities of the BWRVIP with dispatch. Based on a poll of the BWRVIP Executive Committee members, the U. S. BWRVIP utility members unanimously concur with the following renewed commitments:

1. we will continue to provide financial and technical resources needed to complete the BWRVIP Program Plan,
2. we will actively participate in completing the BWRVIP Program Plan,
3. we will implement the BWRVIP products at each of our plants as appropriate considering individual plant schedules, configurations and needs,
4. if a plant does not implement the applicable BWRVIP products, the plant will provide timely notification to the NRC staff, and
5. we will continue to work closely with the NRC staff to the successful and timely conclusion of the BWRVIP Program Plan.

The BWRVIP remains on schedule to provide the BWRVIP products to the NRC staff and we look forward to prompt NRC review and acceptance of these products.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this subject.

Sincerely,



Carl Terry  
Niagara Mohawk Power Company  
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project

Reply To: Carl Terry, BWRVIP Chairman, Niagara Mohawk Power Company, P. O. Box 63,  
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Attachment 1

U. S. BWRVIP Utility Members

Boston Edison  
Carolina Power & Light  
Centerior  
ComEd  
Detroit Edison  
Entergy  
GPU Nuclear  
IES Utilities  
Illinois Power  
Nebraska Public Power District  
New York Power Authority  
Niagara Mohawk Power Company  
Northeast Utilities  
Northern States Power  
PECO Energy  
Pennsylvania Power & Light  
Public Service Electric & Gas  
Southern Nuclear  
TVA  
Vermont Yankee  
Washington Public Power Supply System