

July 27, 2006

Mr. Gary A. Lofthus, Chair
Electric Power Research Institute
Performance Demonstration Initiative
Nuclear Management Company
186 County Road U
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

Dear Mr. Lofthus:

At the May 23 & 24, 2005, meeting with Performance Demonstrative Initiative (PDI) staff and industry representatives, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) expressed an interest in the Electric Power Research Institute-PDI databases which contain the specific information on data sets, equipment, actual test data, and pass/fail results for each candidate participating in the performance demonstration program. As stated in the NRC staff's summary of the May 2005 meeting dated September 8, 2005, the data is a source of information that is useful for evaluating the effectiveness of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII performance-based ultrasonic testing as administered by the PDI program.

The staff is interested in querying the database to assess the training and examination effectiveness of Appendix III of Section XI, Appendix VII of Section XI, and Article 4 of Section V; to assess the initial assumptions used for screening criteria of Appendix VIII of Section XI; to assess the probability of detection (POD) of different crack morphologies; and to assess the contributions of weld configurations on the POD of cracks.

To develop useful database queries, NRC is requesting a list of the variables captured by the various Appendix VIII qualification database(s) and a description of each variable. For example, the variable "test date" may be described as "the date that a candidate started examining the first test specimen." The NRC is also requesting the dates and descriptions of changes implemented by the PDI program that may affect the successful qualification of procedures, equipment, and personnel, be provided. Once the requested information has been received and reviewed, NRC will develop the queries it would like to pursue with PDI.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Donald G. Naujock of my staff at (301) 415-2767.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Terence L. Chan, Chief
Piping & NDE Branch
Division of Component Integrity
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NAME	DGNaujock	TLChan
DATE	7/27/06	8/3/06

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