

2006-444 _____ BWR Vessel & Internals Project (BWRVIP)

October 5, 2006

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Attention: Matthew A. Mitchell

Subject: Project No. 704 – Notification of Change to BWRVIP Integrated Surveillance Program Withdrawal Schedule

- Reference:
1. "BWRVIP-86-A: BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Updated BWR Integrated Surveillance Program Implementation Plan," EPRI Technical Report 1003346, October 2002.
 2. "BWRVIP-116: BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Implementation for License Renewal," EPRI Technical Report 1007824, July 2003.

The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC of a change to the BWRVIP Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) withdrawal schedule.

BWRVIP-86-A [1] contains the NRC approved withdrawal schedule for RPV surveillance capsules through the end of current license. Table 4-3 of BWRVIP-86-A shows the Monticello surveillance capsule to be withdrawn in 2006. However, due to an extension of the Monticello operating cycle, the refueling outage is scheduled for March 2007, approximately 6 months later than previously planned.

The Monticello capsule was to have achieved 26.5 EFPY of irradiation exposure as shown in Table 4-4 of BWRVIP-86-A. The additional 6 months of exposure will have an insignificant impact on the total accumulated fluence of the capsule. Furthermore, the plate material in the capsule is the only material in the capsule that is of benefit to the ISP. This data will be used solely for the evaluation of the Monticello capsule and RPV, i.e., it will not be used by any other plant in the ISP. Therefore, this extension will not affect the applicability of the results to Monticello and has no impact on any other plant in the ISP.

It is worth noting that there is a tolerance of approximately two years inherent in the ISP withdrawal schedule to account for changes in the plant operating cycle and the timing of refueling outages. In most cases, the preference is to withdraw a capsule achieving a higher fluence rather than lower fluence. At typical BWR fluxes, the accumulated capsule fluence over a 2 year period is in the range of $3E16$ to $2E17$ n/cm², $E > 1.0$ MeV (the higher value reflecting typical power uprate conditions). Thus, variations of 2 years in the withdrawal schedule are not

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expected to have a significant impact on the applicability of the data. The withdrawal schedules identified in BWRVIP-86-A and BWRVIP-116 [2] may vary by as much as 2 years from the actual withdrawal date.

The BWRVIP will incorporate this change to the Monticello withdrawal schedule in the next revision of BWRVIP-86-A/-116.

If you have any questions on this subject, please contact Bob Carter (EPRI), BWRVIP Assessment Task Manager, by telephone at 704.595.2019.

Sincerely,



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