

January 19, 2007

Terence L. Chan  
Chief Piping & NDE Branch  
Division of Component Integrity  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Subject: NRC Request for Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) Appendix VIII Data

Dear Mr. Chan:

On July 27, 2006, you sent a letter to Gary Lofthus (PDI Chairman) requesting access to the EPRI/PDI database. Once your request was received it was forwarded to the NDE Steering Committee and the EPRI Action Plan Working Group (APWG) #4 for review. The request was carefully evaluated and it was determined that it did not contain sufficient detail to evaluate the actual scope of the activity and its key deliverables.

The industry relies heavily on EPRI to assure that the security of the data is maintained at a high level and that access to the information is limited to have a legitimate "need to know". While the EPRI/PDI has used the data in the past to support NRC research those projects were well defined and the deliverables had been established prior to the start of the work. A project plan was developed and reviewed by both parties that clearly identified the deliverables and the project goals. The project plan was then submitted to the NDE Center Steering Committee for ranking and approval prior to the start of work. The agreed upon data base queries were performed by EPRI personnel familiar with the function and nuances of the data and the resultant information was purged of any confidential information that could possibly divulge the true identity of the samples, the flaw locations, and/or distribution of flaw sizes contained within the samples.

Presently, key EPRI resources capable of supporting this request are fully engaged in supporting the industry with current materials issues and are not available to support this activity without affecting ongoing projects underway. The APWG and the NDEC Steering Committee are willing to consider a project proposal for future work in this area., In order for the APWG and the NDEC Steering Committee to fully evaluate this proposed project, and commit funding and resources to support it, a more detailed request must be developed.

Both the APWG and the NDE Steering Committee are aware that the NRC is not familiar with the content of the databases and may find it difficult to structure their request in a detailed fashion, so it is recommended that key NRC and EPRI personnel organize an information

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Terence L. Chan

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gathering meeting at the EPRI NDE Center in Charlotte, NC during which the NRC can obtain a overview of the contents and structure of the EPRI databases. With this information the NRC should be able to develop a more detailed request that can be formalized into a project that can be submitted to the NDE Center Steering Committee and the APWG for consideration.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 595-2140 or email; clatiola@epri.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carl Latiolais', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carl Latiolais  
EPRI Program Manager  
Appendix VIII Performance Demonstration

CL/SD

Attachment

- c: T. Alley (Duke Energy)
- P. Ashwin (EPRI)
- J. Donahue (Progress Energy)
- C. King (EPRI)
- G. Lofthus (NMC)
- M. Robinson (Duke Energy)
- G. Selby (EPRI)
- D. Steininger (EPRI)
- B. Thigpen (EPRI)
- M. Turnbow (TVA)



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence L. Chan", written over a white background.

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