

December 27, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Allen L. Hiser, Jr., Chief
Steam Generator Tube Integrity and
Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Component Integrity
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Emma L. Wong, Chemical Engineer **/RA/**
Steam Generator Tube Integrity and
Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Component Integrity
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2007 CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC
MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI) AND
INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS STEAM GENERATOR ISSUES

The NEI Steam Generator Task Force (SGTF) met with Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) staff on November 29, 2007 at Westinghouse's offices in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss (1) the status of industry's efforts for measuring and monitoring noise in steam generator tube eddy current data, (2) the status of the Indian Point Unit 2 Lessons Learned action items, and (3) other recent steam generator issues. The Enclosure provides a list of those in attendance. This meeting was noticed as a public meeting and the meeting agenda is available in the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML073190440. However, no members of the public, other than industry representatives, were present.

Information presented by industry during the meeting is available in the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Package Accession Number ML073470523

During the meeting, the industry clarified the following:

- When the threshold value for noise is exceeded, past data for the affected tubes will be reviewed. Initially, there will be no automatic comparison of the noise levels in a tube from one inspection to the next. The NRC staff commented that automatic comparison of the noise levels in a tube may permit more rapid identification of flaws.

CONTACT: Emma I. Wong, DCI/CSGB
(301) 415-1217

- Methods for monitoring noise in data obtained from eddy current array coils have not yet been developed.

The following was discussed during the meeting:

- The NRC staff commented that monitoring for noise is important, and that industry should aggressively pursue improvements in the eddy current data analysis software to permit real-time monitoring of noise.
- The NRC staff has not completed its review of the industry's response to the Indian Point Unit 2 Lessons Learned action items.
- NRC Information Notice 2007-37, "Buildup of Deposits in Steam Generators" was recently issued. The NRC staff is interested in the industry's perspective on this issue and any actions that the industry plans to take to address this issue. The SGTF representatives stated that, until recently, there were significant differences in the secondary water chemistry programs between U.S. and French plants. The French plants were using morpholine to control secondary water pH until recently, whereas U.S. plants have been using alternate amines to control pH for 10 to 15 years. The alternate amines (e.g., ethanolamine) reduce iron transport to the steam generators.
- The NRC staff is interested in understanding the industry's assessment of the indications of cold-leg cracking at Catawba Unit 2 including the industry's expectations for responding in a timely manner to operating experience. Catawba Unit 2 has thermally treated Alloy 600 steam generator tube material. The NRC staff was informed that Catawba Unit 2 found circumferential indications in the tube-to-tubesheet weld on the cold-leg side of the steam generator in ten tubes. Nine of these ten tubes were in one steam generator. The industry issued a summary of this operating experience. The NRC staff indicated that a possible topic for future discussion was the industry's expectations for responding to such operating experience in a timely manner during an outage (e.g., updating the degradation assessment immediately prior or during the outage).
- The NRC staff recently issued a letter to NEI on steam generator tube inspections (ML073110083). As indicated in the letter, the NRC staff is considering issuing a Regulatory Issue Summary on this topic. The SGTF representatives stated that they are considering a new technical specification task force traveler to modify some of the inspection requirements. The NRC staff encouraged the industry to keep the NRC staff informed of their efforts.
- The NRC staff questioned whether the NRC was receiving updates of all of the reports it had received in the past. The SGTF representatives clarified that (1) the NRC staff will continue to receive updates to the Electric Power Research Institute guidelines for monitoring and maintaining steam generator tube integrity, (2) the industry is in the

process of providing several other documents that the NRC staff had requested, and (3) the industry has not updated the voltage-based outside diameter stress corrosion cracking database since no tubes had been pulled until recently.

Project: No. 689

Enclosure:
Attendance List

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mam@nei.org

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NAME	EWong /RA/	EMurphy /RA/	AHiser /RA/
DATE	12/ 11 /2007	12/ 11/2007	12 /21/2007

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Attendance List

SGTF/Industry

Helen Cothron, EPRI
Sasan Bakhtiari, ANL
Scott A. Redner, NMC
David Crawley, SNC
Robert Cullen, Entergy
Forrest Hundley, SNC
Mike Melton, NEI
H. Lagally, Westinghouse
Mohamad Behraves, EPRI
Patrick Wagner, Wolf Creek
Dan Mayes, Duke Energy
Steve Brown, Consultant
Robert Vollmer, Zetec
Dan Pyne, Zetec
Rick Mauver, Westinghouse
Qui Le, Westinghouse
Steve Swilley, EPRI
John Arhar, PGE
Jeff Fleck, AREVA

NRC

Emma Wong
Greg Makar
Margaret Stambaugh
Allen Hiser
Emmett Murphy
Ken Karwoski