



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

James H. Riley
DIRECTOR
ENGINEERING
NUCLEAR GENERATION DIVISION

January 9, 2008

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-001

SUBJECT: Response to NRC Request for Additional Information (RAI) Regarding Materials Reliability Program (MRP)-169, "Technical Basis for Preemptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in PWRs"

PROJECT NUMBER: 689

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is pleased to provide the enclosed responses to the NRC's request for additional information (RAI) on EPRI Topical Report MRP-169 (TR), "Technical Basis for Pre-Emptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs)."

EPRI MRP-169 details the methodology and criteria for using preemptive weld overlays (PWOL) to prevent dissimilar metal welds from cracking in PWR primary coolant pipes and nozzles. The report was first submitted for NRC review on September 7, 2005. NRC issued a request for additional information on August 3, 2006 (ADAMS ML062050337; TAC NO. MC9779). The responses to the RAI questions with proposed MRP-169 changes are contained in the enclosed document. The enclosed document is considered to be non-proprietary.

MRP and NEI representatives last met with the NRC staff on August 23, 2006 to discuss the industry approach to addressing the staff RAIs (meeting minutes documented in ADAMS ML 0724200980). As part of the meeting, the industry requested the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for this TR be issued in time to support the Fall 2008 refueling outages when this PWOL application may be required. Based on this, the SER would need to be approved and issued by early summer 2008 to support plant outage planning and relief request submittals. The industry is willing to support the Staff to meet this need date.

NRC staff review of the enclosed report is exempt from the fee recovery provision contained in 10 CFR Part 170. A fee waiver was already granted when the TR was first submitted. This approval is documented in an NRC letter dated August 3, 2006 (ADAMS ML060370431). Based on our

Document Control Desk

January 9, 2008

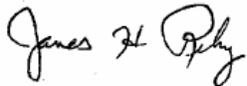
Page 2

discussions with the Staff, the approved fee waiver will remain in effect for the re-submittal of the TR and RAI responses since the scope and purpose of the TR have not changed.

We look forward to working with the Staff towards a successful completion of the safety evaluation.

If you have any technical questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202.739.8137; jhr@nei.org or Mike Melton at 202.739.8049; mam@nei.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James H. Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

James H. Riley

Enclosure

c: Mr. Edmund T. Sullivan, Senior Level Advisor, NRC
Mr. Timothy R. Lupold, Materials Engineer, NRC