July 29, 2008

Mr. Rick Libra
Exelon
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION FOR ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) BOILING WATER REACTOR (BWR) VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT (BWRVIP) TOPICAL REPORT (TR)-1006598, "BWRVIP-06-A: BWR VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT, SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF BWR REACTOR INTERNALS, REVISED SECTION 4.0: CONSIDERATION OF LOOSE PARTS" (TAC NO. MC7448)

Dear Mr. Libra:

By letter dated May 24, 2002 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML021500624), the BWRVIP submitted "BWRVIP-06-A: BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Safety Assessment of BWR Reactor Internals," to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for review. The purpose of the TR is to exchange information with the NRC staff in support of generic regulatory improvements related to assessing the safety consequences of potential cracking of BWR internals. The NRC staff concluded that no technical changes were necessary or required for the approval of the TR and by letter dated September 16, 2003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML032650767) informed the BWRVIP of their acceptance and approval of BWRVIP-06.

By letter dated May 11, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML051370191), the BWRVIP submitted "BWRVIP-06-A: BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Safety Assessment of BWR Reactor Internals, Revised Section 4.0: Consideration of Loose Parts," to the NRC staff for review. Only Section 4.0 of the previously NRC staff approved TR (BWRVIP-06-A) was revised. The purpose of the revised section of the TR is to provide a general evaluation of the potential impact of loose parts generated in the reactor vessel due to cracking of reactor vessel internal components and to assess how loose parts affect the safe shutdown of the reactor plant and offsite dose.

By letter dated December 21, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML070030188), the NRC staff sent a request for additional information (RAI) to the BWRVIP. By letter dated August 9, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072250216), the BWRVIP stated that the response to the RAI would be sent to NRC by November 30, 2007. By letter dated November 30, 2007, the response to the RAI was received by the NRC staff (ADAMS Accession No. ML073410041).

The NRC staff has reviewed, evaluated, and determined that revised Section 4.0 of BWRVIP-06-A supports the generic regulatory improvements related to assessing the safety consequences of potential cracking of BWR internals. Further, the NRC staff finds that it is acceptable for referencing in licensing documentation for operating BWR/2-6 plants to the extent specified and under the limitations delineated in the TR and in the enclosed SE. The SE defines the basis for our acceptance of the revised Section 4.0 of BWRVIP-06-A.

Our acceptance applies only to material provided in the revised Section 4.0 of BWRVIP-06-A. We do not intend to repeat our review of the acceptable material described in the revised Section 4.0 of TR BWRVIP-06-A. When TR BWRVIP-06-A appears as a reference in licensing documentation, our review will ensure that the material presented applies to the specific plant involved. Licensees will be expected to implement the provisions of BWRVIP-06-A, including the revised Section 4.0, subject to the limitations identified in the enclosed SE, as part of their BWRVIP program unless deviations from the program are justified. Licensees shall identify such deviations to the NRC in accordance with BWRVIP program requirements.

In accordance with the guidance provided on the NRC website, we request that the BWRVIP publish accepted proprietary and non-proprietary versions of this BWRVIP report within three months of receipt of this letter. The accepted versions shall incorporate this letter and the enclosed final SE after the title page. Also, they must contain historical review information, including NRC staff RAIs and your responses. The accepted versions shall include an "-A" (designating accepted) following the BWRVIP report identification symbol.

If future changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements affect the acceptability of this BWRVIP report, the BWRVIP and/or licensees referencing it will be expected to revise the BWRVIP report appropriately, or justify its continued applicability for subsequent referencing.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark J. Maxin, Acting Deputy Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 704

Enclosure: SE

cc w/ encl: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark J. Maxin, Acting Deputy Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 704

Enclosure: SE

cc w/ encl: See next page

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