

RAS M-207

NEC-JH_39

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
Thermal Hydraulic Phenomena Subcommittee

Docket Number: (not applicable)

Location: Rockville, Maryland

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Work Order No.: NRC-194

Pages 1-364

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

DOCKETED
USNRC

August 12, 2008 (11:00am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee LLC
Docket No. 50-271 Official Exhibit No. NEC-JH-39
OFFERED by: Applicant/Licensee Intervenor NEC
NRC Staff _____ Other _____
IDENTIFIED on 7/23/08 Witness/Panel Hopmield
Action Taken: ADMITTED REJECTED WITHDRAWN
Reporter/Clerk MAC

Template Secy-028

DS-03

1 Okay. I also review the section on leak
2 before break. And the operating conditions under the
3 uprated conditions will not alter the conclusions of
4 the previous leak before break analysis for Waterford
5 3. It's still valid.

6 Are there any additional questions?

7 I'll turn it over to John Tsao.

8 MR. TSAO: I'm John Tsao from the
9 Materials and Chemical Engineer Branch. I reviewed
10 five sections; coding system, flow accelerated
11 corrosion programs, steam generator tube inspections,
12 steam generator blowdown systems and chemical and
13 volume control systems.

14 I will be talking about only two systems
15 here; flow accelerated programs and steam generator
16 tube inspections because they are more significant in
17 terms of power uprate.

18 For the flow accelerated corrosion
19 programs, this morning there was some issue as to how
20 much you increase. I have this backup slide.

21 The FAC program measure the wear rates in
22 terms of mils per year. And these are the changes
23 that would be due to power uprate conditions.

24 Also, I want to show you another slide
25 that gives the effectiveness of the FAC program. This

1 is provided by the licensee. And as licensee said, it
2 is more in the -- they used CHECWORKS. It's a
3 computer program that considers hydrodynamics, heat
4 balance, temperature in particular.

5 As you can see the predictive method is
6 conservative considered to actual measurement.

7 DR. FORD: I'm sorry. Could you explain
8 that?

9 MR. TSAO: Okay.

10 DR. FORD: It looks as though it's equally
11 scattered around the one to one line. So why are you
12 saying it's conservative?

13 MR. TSAO: Well, for example, you can see
14 -- let's see.

15 You can see just for example, this point
16 here the measurement is about 300 mils. The predict
17 value, let's say, from here to here is about 240 mils.
18 So what it says is that the methodology will predict
19 that the tube wall thinner than measured, therefore it
20 also indicated that the licensee may need to do some
21 monitoring or replacement of that pipe.

22 DR. FORD: But equally there are points on
23 the other side which are not, what you call it --

24 MR. TSAO: Well, that's true. Yes, that's
25 correct. But as you know this is only a prediction.

1 Predictions, hopefully -- well, from the data point
2 you can see they are scattered toward the conservative
3 side. And also the FAC program according to EPRI is
4 that it's a process. In other words, the licensees
5 would go out, make an inspection, UT or ultrasonic
6 measurements or the pipe thickness and then they will
7 come back and they input that data into the computer
8 code so that to make sure there is a certain accuracy
9 in their predictions.

10 Also predict that the -- in the prediction
11 method they include some safety factors.

12 DR. FORD: It seems to me as though
13 there's a huge amount of scatter around that one-to-
14 one line. And so the question immediately arises as
15 to what is the impact of that in terms of could you
16 get a through wall erosion event taking place when you
17 had predicted it would not have done so?

18 MR. TSAO: It could.

19 DR. FORD: Did you go through that sort of
20 "what if" argument? I mean if you look at that data
21 base, you don't really have too much confidence in
22 CHECWORKS.

23 MR. TSAO: Well, I wouldn't say they would
24 be relying on CHECWORKS per se. The licensees, not
25 only Waterford but other licensees, you know they

1 include other factors. For example, other industry
2 experience. You know if some plants have some problem
3 with FAC water lines, then they will consider --

4 DR. FORD: I recognize that.

5 MR. TSAO: Right.

6 DR. FORD: But this particular EPU is
7 putting a lot of basis on CHECWORKS to manage this
8 problem. And if this a general observation as to how
9 good CHECWORKS is, my confidence is a little bit
10 shattered.

11 MR. TSAO: I should point out that
12 Waterford is not unique. I did the review for license
13 renewal, and I also asked questions. And this is type
14 of plot that, you know, other licensee has shown me.

15 DR. FORD: Yes, I know.

16 MR. TSAO: In other words, I don't think
17 that licensee is depending solely on what prediction
18 is. They also, you know, include other experiences and
19 inspections. Not only the inspections for the fact,
20 but there are other SME code inspections they have to
21 perform.

22 DR. FORD: I'll ask again. Did you go
23 through the "what if" scenario?

24 MR. TSAO: I have Kris Parczewski from my
25 branch to elaborate on this.

1 DR. FORD: With that amount of uncertainty
2 in your modeling capability and therefore your
3 management capability, do you not feel uncomfortable?

4 MR. TSAO: No.

5 DR. FORD: No?

6 MR. PARCZIEWSKI: Kris Parcziewski from
7 the Chemical Engineering Branch.

8 To answer your question, those points are
9 predicted. CHECWORKS predicts but in addition there
10 is a correction factor for each individual line which
11 is here at the top right hand side, line correction
12 factor which indicates that it is corrected for each
13 individual line all the points predicted in the line
14 are corrected by this line correction factor. And the
15 line is defined as a portion of the system which has
16 the same chemistry but not necessarily the same
17 temperature. If I answer your question.

18 So all those points are already corrected.
19 Ideally, if they were ideal, they would lie in the 45
20 degree line, the middle line. However, obviously,
21 there is some scatter.

22 DR. FORD: I understand the physics --

23 MR. PARCZIEWSKI: Yes.

24 DR. FORD: -- of the erosion process.

25 It's highly dependent on ph. High dependent on

1 temperature. Highly dependent on corrosion potential
2 and all of those things are interacting. So that if
3 you're a little bit off on your definition of one of
4 those parameters, then you're going to get a big
5 change. So I can understand why there is a scatter
6 there because you're not able to define your system
7 adequately enough, and therefore that's the physical
8 origin of your LCF. But I still feel uncomfortable
9 about that huge scatter and how you use it in
10 management from their point of view and in terms of
11 regulation from your point of view.

12 MR. TSAO: Okay. For regulation,
13 basically there's no regulation on FAC program.

14 DR. FORD: That's what worries me.

15 MR. TSAO: The FAC program is instituted
16 because of the bulletin. Back in the '80s it was
17 result of Bulletin 87-01 where Surry had a --

18 DR. FORD: Yes, sure.

19 MR. TSAO: -- a rupture. And Generic
20 Letter 89-08 that required the licensees to institute
21 some type of program, FAC program. And then the
22 industry, you know, with EPRI guidance come up with
23 this program. And so --

24 DR. FORD: I understand all that. I'm
25 just looking at what the history has been since then.

1 And, you know, a few months ago we had fatalities in
2 Japan because of this phenomenon, which was not
3 managed well. And you know if this is supposed to be
4 the state-of-the-art of prediction of management and
5 therefore regulation, I just don't feel comfortable.

6 MR. TSAO: Okay. Speaking of the
7 Japanese, again from my understanding is that Japanese
8 did not inspect, you know, the last 20, 30 years.

9 DR. FORD: Correct.

10 MR. TSAO: Where here under FAC program
11 the licensees will have to inspect at least they say
12 50 to 100 inspection points for their large bore
13 piping and small bore piping they probably sometime
14 inspect 100 percent. And so there's a constant
15 inspections going on to make sure that the --

16 DR. FORD: I understand that.

17 MR. TSAO: Right.

18 DR. FORD: All I'm pointing out is
19 everyone bows to CHECWORKS and says yes, yes that's
20 the best thing that's around. And I'm just
21 questioning it. Is it adequate?

22 MR. HOWE: This is Allen Howe.

23 And I'd just like to add in at this point
24 that we understand the question and we will be happy
25 to get back with you with a response on that.

1 We're now going to complete the NRR
2 presentation.

3 MR. KALYANAM: I have one question.
4 Before Rich Lobel goes, we have two experts, one of
5 the FAC CHECWORKS program, the other one on the steam
6 generator tubes. So we had some questions before the
7 break, and I'm sure they'll be able to provide their
8 response to that. Is that okay.

9 DR. FORD: Well, I've been bagging on the
10 head about this FAC business. I understand it
11 perfectly. The other members might enjoy having a
12 presentation on that.

13 MR. KALYANAM: Okay. Either way is fine.

14 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: If it's something we're
15 going to enjoy, I think we should do it.

16 MR. ROSEN: As many times as possible.

17 MR. SIEBER: That's one time.

18 MR. KALYANAM: I have Ken Karwoski from
19 EMCB

20 MR. KARWOSKI: I guess I understand this
21 morning there were questions from the steam generator
22 two integrity standpoints some questions about whether
23 or not the power uprate, what effect it would have on
24 wear and cracking along the length of the tubes as a
25 result of the increased flow through the steam

1 generator. And then there may have also been a
2 question about the adequacy of the 75 gallon per day
3 leakage link.

4 In terms of the effect of the power uprate
5 on the increased flow through the steam generator,
6 there is a potential effect on the amount of wear that
7 can happen at the various support locations, whether
8 it be at the vertical straps, the diagonal bars or at
9 the egg crate supports. There could be an effect on
10 the wear.

11 In addition, Waterford has exhibited
12 stress corrosion cracking at a number of locations
13 along their steam generator tubes. Both of those
14 mechanisms could be effected by the power uprate.
15 However, the change in the conditions in terms of the
16 flow, the temperatures and the pressures across the
17 steam generator tubes are relatively small and well
18 within the bounds of what exists at other plants. And
19 it's been our experience at the other plants which
20 have uprated power that these small changes have
21 negligible increases in corrosion rates, negligible
22 increases on wear rates. And by "negligible," I mean
23 that it's well managed from one inspection to the
24 next; that when they go in and do an inspection after
25 a power uprate or after an interval, that they still

1 have tube integrity. That the tubes have adequate
2 regulatory margin --

3 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: This is where? On the
4 inside of the tubes you're talking about?

5 MR. KARWOSKI: On the outside.

6 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: Are the tubes rattling
7 and wearing.

8 MR. KARWOSKI: Rattling and wearing. And
9 that happens at almost every --

10 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: These fluid interactions
11 are a little hard to predict, aren't they?

12 MR. KARWOSKI: Actually, they're quite
13 reliable. I mean there are some instances where some
14 tubes, and this is usually in the life of a steam
15 generator, where some tubes will wear quicker than
16 others because of the placement of the anti-vibration
17 bars or the diagonal straps in the case of Waterford.

18 So some tubes may wear more than others,
19 but in general these phenomenon are very predictable.
20 Plants leave wear scars in service, and in general
21 they're very predictable. The wear rates tend to be
22 very low and they're left in service for many cycles
23 before they exceed the tech spec.

24 MR. ROSEN: Do they tend to decrease in
25 rate because they kind of wear off whatever the

1 contact point and that's it?

2 MR. KARWOSKI: That has been the
3 experience, and I can't comment on the combustion
4 engineering data, but I know that that's definitely
5 been the experience at Westinghouse design steam
6 generators. But the wear rates decrease with time
7 because of the contact issue point.

8 MR. ROSEN: Now the question is brought up
9 how about the effect of vibration, vibrational
10 stresses on the kinetics of stress corrosion cracking?

11 MR. KARWOSKI: Once again, you know, it is
12 possible that that would increase the rate of
13 cracking, may even change the initiation of cracks.
14 But it's been our experience that any change that does
15 occur: (1) It's not readily measurable, and; (2) that
16 it can be managed within the normal frequency of in
17 service inspections. And certainly if there is a
18 change, we will detect that as we review the annual
19 reports that the plant sends in regarding their
20 inspections. And we would expect them to take
21 corrective action, and that would be something we
22 would followed up. But in general we have not
23 observed that. And in the case of Waterford, it's been
24 their practice that when they find a crack, they plug
25 that crack on detection. It's not like some of the

1 other plants which leave cracks in service and try to
2 manage cracks that --

3 MR. ROSEN: My questions on those two
4 issues.

5 MR. SIEBER: The displacements are
6 extremely small and the number of cycles is extremely
7 large. So if there is going to be failure, it would
8 show up fairly early, I would expect.

9 MR. KARWOSKI: That would be for like the
10 cycle type of fatigue failure.

11 MR. SIEBER: Right.

12 MR. KARWOSKI: In this case it's more just
13 the wearing of the tube, which it can be low cycle--

14 MR. SIEBER: But that's not fatigue
15 failure.

16 MR. KARWOSKI: No, that is not fatigue.
17 Yes, that's correct.

18 MR. SIEBER: Right. It's just wearing
19 out.

20 MR. KARWOSKI: That's just wear.

21 DR. FORD: Jack, there's a problem
22 discussed earlier on. It's not trangranular fatigue,
23 cracking you see.

24 MR. SIEBER: Right.

25 DR. FORD: And therefore it's not covered

1 by the ASME 3 code or anything like that. Similarly
2 it's just stress code in cracking that's been
3 accelerated.

4 MR. SIEBER: But wear phenomenon is
5 covered by the ASME code.

6 DR. FORD: Yes.

7 MR. KARWOSKI: Through the plugging limits
8 and what not and through the plant technical
9 specifications.

10 DR. FORD: Right.

11 CHECWORKS?

12 MR. KARWOSKI: I think Louise Lund was
13 going to talk about CHECWORKS.

14 DR. FORD: Maybe if I could just state
15 what my problem was, Louise, and that would make it
16 more efficient for you to answer it.

17 MS. LUND: Should I introduce myself first
18 for the record?

19 DR. FORD: Yes.

20 MS. LUND: I'm Louise Lund. I'm the
21 Section Chief for the Steam Generator and Integrity
22 and Chemical Engineering Section, NRR. And, anyway,
23 I was asked to come over and discuss the FAC program.

24 DR. FORD: My concern was that the way
25 that they're using CHECWORKS right now, it is

1 primarily a prioritization tool as to where you're
2 going to look in the carbon steel piping. From the
3 measures that were shown this morning, it's apparent
4 that CHECWORKS is not good on one-to-one correlation.
5 Therefore, it's quite possible that you may use
6 CHECWORKS to say that I should not look at that pipe
7 because of the particular operating conditions of that
8 pipe, but I should look at this pipe. But in fact that
9 pipe there might well be eroding at quite a large
10 rate, but you wouldn't look at it for one, two, three
11 cycles. In that time you could go through wall. So
12 that was essentially my worry that you're using a
13 model which is not precise to make prioritization
14 decisions.

15 MS. LUND: Right. And I just want to say
16 off the top, you know we have a very active interest
17 in the FAC programs. Specifically we've had generic
18 letters or generic correspondence that has asked
19 industry to put together these type of programs which
20 manage FACs and also have these predictive
21 methodologies. However, it's not a case of just using
22 the predictive methodologies blindly and looking at
23 information on one line or another; there's a number
24 of things that inform the decision as far as what's
25 inspected and how it's inspected. Because it is a

1 tool, but it's not a blind tool in that particular
2 way. And, in fact, this gentleman I believe is from
3 Waterford and he was mentioning, we had a kind of
4 offline discussion about it and that's why I asked him
5 to come up here and help discuss this, and
6 specifically for Waterford.

7 I also wanted to say that for these FAC
8 programs, I think that we have an interest in looking
9 at them through power uprate and license renewal in
10 that we ask that the licensee provide information on
11 their most susceptible lines with their measures
12 versus their predicted and whether it gave them
13 information such that they could replace the lines,
14 you know, in a timely manner. Because that's really
15 what we want to know is, is it giving you the
16 information at the time that you need it in order to
17 make the decisions you need to make good decisions
18 about running your plant.

19 So that's the kind of questions we ask. We
20 do not do a re-review of their CHECWORKS data. We do
21 not take all their raw data and subsequently do an
22 audit of it. Okay. So I just wanted to kind of
23 clarify what it is that we do, you know, in our review
24 process. Usually through a request for additional
25 information we usually will ask them for the most

1 susceptible lines.

2 MR. ROSEN: We call that a performance-
3 based regime?

4 MS. LUND: Right. Right. And when we put
5 out that generic letter where we asked the licensees
6 to put together a FAC program and also have these
7 predictive methodologies, we did inspections of those
8 programs at that time. Okay. In fact, to make sure
9 that these programs were in place and in fact doing
10 what we thought that they were doing. Okay.

11 Now, I now in license renewal, true
12 license renewal we've been asked to come and give a
13 presentation to the ACRS on FAC and FAC programs. And
14 we've actually been in contact with CHECWORKS user
15 script to ask them to come in and help present this
16 information such that you can look industry-wide at
17 how well these FAC programs are working, specifically
18 with the CHECWORKS program and give you a lot of sense
19 -- instead of looking at just one graph, kind of get
20 a sense for generically how this is working and where
21 it may be challenged in certain ways or another,
22 because they think that they have a very good story to
23 tell.

24 Now maybe if you could introduce yourself,
25 and then also explain how programmatically it's a much

1 lighter look at how you choose the lines and --
2 because there's a surrogate aspect to it where, you
3 know, if you see something you look at other things
4 that are like that. There are a lot of things that go
5 into the program that don't rely on just this
6 measurement.

7 So, anyway --

8 MR. ALEKSICK: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Rob Aleksick. I'm with CSI Technologies representing
10 Entergy today.

11 Real quick about my background. I've had
12 the opportunity to be involved with flow accelerated
13 corrosion since 1989 and in particular have modeled or
14 otherwise addressed approximately 20 EPU efforts in
15 the last two years.

16 Dr. Ford made a very good point earlier
17 when he said that the graph that we looked at did not
18 display a very good correlation between the measured
19 results and the predicted results out of CHECWORKS.
20 Programmatically -- well, let me back up a second.
21 That is certainly true in the example that we looked
22 at. That is not always the case.

23 CHECWORKS models are on a per line or per
24 run basis. The run --

25 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: Could we go back to that

1 graph that we saw? The graph was a plot of thickness
2 versus predicted thickness.

3 MR. ALEKSICK: That's correct.

4 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: Because if you looked at
5 amount removed versus predicted amount removed, it
6 seems to me the comparison will be even worse.

7 MR. ALEKSICK: That's correct. In fact --

8 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: That's what you're
9 really trying to predict is how much is removed.

10 MR. ALEKSICK: Yes, that is true. And my
11 point is that in some subsets of the model, the one
12 that we looked at here which was high pressure
13 extraction steam, the correlation between measured and
14 predicted is not so good. And in some subsets of the
15 model, the correlation is much better.

16 CHAIRMAN WALLIS: It looks to me that in
17 some cases it's predicting no removal whereas in fact
18 there's a lot of removal. So the error is percentage
19 wise enormous?

20 MR. ALEKSICK: Yes, exactly. Exactly.
21 Some runs results are imprecise and some more precise.
22 And we look at both accuracy and precision.
23 Programmatically we account for that, that reality, by
24 treating those runs that have what we call well
25 calibrated results, i.e., precise and accurate results

1 coming out of the model that are substantiated by
2 observations, we treat those piping segments
3 differently programmatically than we do areas where
4 the model is less good. If the model results do not
5 correlate well with reality, different actions are
6 taken primarily increased inspection coverage to
7 increase our level of confidence that those systems
8 can continue to operate safely.

9 In addition to the CHECWORKS results many
10 other factors are considered to assure that the piping
11 retains its integrity, chief among these are industry
12 experience as exchanged through the EPRI sponsored
13 CHUG group. Plant experience local to Waterford in
14 this case. And the FAC program owner maintains an
15 awareness of the operational status of the plant so
16 that, for example, modifications or operational
17 changes that occur are taken into account in the
18 inspection of the secondary site FAC susceptible
19 piping.

20 DR. FORD: And my final question on this
21 particular subject was given the uncertainties in the
22 model, changed by this performance based aspect that
23 you just talked about, is there any way that you can
24 come up with a quantification of the risk associated
25 with a failure of a specific pipe?

1 MR. ALEKSICK: There's currently no
2 accepted methodology to quantify that risk, no.
3 However, it is accounted for primarily on a judgment
4 basis through industry experience and information
5 exchange through the EPRI CHUG group.

6 DR. FORD: Okay.

7 MR. MITCHELL: Yes, this is Tim Mitchell.

8 Just to give you a feel for how we're
9 addressing for this upcoming refueling outage, we have
10 increased our scope for a couple of reasons. One to
11 get additional data and we always do more than just
12 exactly what CHECWORKS supports. So you're always out
13 validating and getting more data to be able to help
14 predict where do you need to be looking. But in
15 addition, we're taking some additional points to make
16 sure we have good baseline data for the next cycle to
17 ensure that those points give us a good indication
18 going forward after the EPU.

19 The analysis for flow accelerated
20 corrosion shows very minimal changes as a result of
21 power uprate. But we are taking seriously our
22 inspection program and expanding it for this upcoming
23 outage to ensure that we know what's happening not
24 just what we're predicting.

25 MR. ROSEN: Let me roll that back now,

1 Tim. Can you tell me like for the last three or four
2 outages have you done some actual replacement of
3 piping based on predictions of FAC from the CHECWORKS
4 code or have you never replaced anything? What are
5 you seeing at Waterford?

6 MR. MITCHELL: I can give you non-
7 Waterford data better than I can give Waterford to
8 ponder.

9 MR. CHOWDHURY: My name is Prasanta
10 Chowdhury and I'm working with Entergy design for last
11 20 years.

12 I was involved with FAC also for several
13 years in the past.

14 It's not the CHECWORKS model that
15 determines what replacement is to be done. We base it
16 on actual measurement we take during the refuel
17 outage. So we also project based on actual measurement
18 that what will be our future projected thickness in
19 next refueling outage. So you can survive until next
20 cycle. And then we do some evaluation based on our
21 criteria that makes the stress criteria -- or based on
22 the code requirement. Like make all the equation.

23 Now code allows to go thinning in local
24 area but the FAC is a local thinning. So we do some
25 local thinning evaluation to make sure that it goes to