



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

James H. Riley
DIRECTOR
ENGINEERING
NUCLEAR GENERATION DIVISION

May 2, 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," Report (TAC NO. MD8005), April 07, 2008.

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 NRC issued several requests for additional information on this document. The enclosed RAI responses address all NRC and Battelle questions and comments. MRP-169 Revision 1, also enclosed, includes changes proposed to resolve all the comments and suggestions from NRC and Battelle Staff. The enclosed documents are considered to be non-proprietary.

NEI requests continuance of the NRC safety review of Sections 4 and 7 of MRP-169 Rev 1. 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).

As discussed with the NRC staff, the industry plans to use TR MRP-169 for the weld overlay of dissimilar metal welds in the fall 2008 refueling outage. We look forward to working with the Staff towards a successful completion of the safety evaluation.

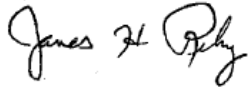
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If you have any technical questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202.739.8137; jhr@nei.org or Mike Melton at 202.739.8049; mam@nei.org.

Sincerely,

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

James H. Riley

Enclosures

c: Mr. Edmund T. Sullivan, Senior Level Advisor, NRC
Mr. Terrence Chan, Branch Chief, NRC