

August 24, 2009

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

SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION (SE) FOR ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) BOILING WATER REACTOR (BWR) VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT (BWRVIP) TOPICAL REPORT (TR) "BWR VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT, BWR CORE SHROUD INSPECTION AND FLAW EVALUATION GUIDELINES (BWRVIP-76)" FOR LICENSE RENEWAL (LR), APPENDIX K (TAC NO. MD4433)

Dear Mr. Libra:

By letter dated December 9, 1999 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML082620712), as supplemented by letters dated June 8, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML051640498), and April 21, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML081200068), the BWRVIP submitted for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval EPRI Proprietary Topical Report 114232, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, BWR Core Shroud Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-76)."

TR BWRVIP-76 combines the guidance from several BWRVIP TRs and incorporates information from several NRC staff reviews and SEs. By letter dated July 28, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML062140594), the NRC staff issued the SE for BWRVIP-76. That SE did not cover the LR related to Appendix K, which was originally submitted with the TR.

In support of LR, NRC staff reviewed Appendix K of the BWRVIP-76 TR to determine whether its guidance will provide acceptable levels of quality for inspection and flaw evaluation of the subject safety-related reactor vessel internal (RVI) components during the period of extended operation. The review also considered compliance with the LR Rule in order to allow LR applications (LRAs) the option of incorporating the BWRVIP-76 guidelines by reference in a plant-specific integrated plant assessment (IPA) and associated time-limited aging analysis (TLAAs).

By letter dated April 9, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML083310228), an NRC draft safety evaluation (SE) regarding our approval of Appendix K of TR BWRVIP-76 was provided for your review and comment. By e-mail dated April 9, 2009 and letter dated June 17, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML091700020) the BWRVIP commented on the draft SE. The NRC staff's disposition of the BWRVIP's comments on the draft SE are discussed in the attachment to the final SE enclosed with this letter.

The final SE includes an expectation that the approved version of BWRVIP-76 will be revised to address NRC's expectation that license renewal applicants address tie rod repairs, as discussed in NRC's July 2, 2007, request for additional information (ADAMS Accession No.

ML0071830529). This issue is discussed in Section 3.3 of the SE.

The NRC staff has reviewed Appendix K of TR BWRVIP-76 and finds that this BWRVIP report is acceptable for referencing in licensing documentation to the extent specified and under the limitations delineated in the BWRVIP report and in the enclosed SE. The SE defines the basis for our acceptance of Appendix K of TR BWRVIP-76.

Our acceptance applies only to material provided in the subject BWRVIP report. We do not intend to repeat our review of the acceptable material described in the BWRVIP report. When the BWRVIP report 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 Appendix K of TR BWRVIP-76, subject to the limitations in the enclosed SE, as part of their BWRVIP program unless deviations from the requirements are justified. Licensees shall identify such deviations to the NRC staff in accordance with BWRVIP program requirements.

In accordance with the guidance provided on the NRC website, we request that BWRVIP publish accepted proprietary and non-proprietary versions of this TR 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 requests for additional information and your responses. The accepted versions shall include an "-A" (designating accepted) following the TR identification symbol.

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas B. Blount, Deputy Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No.: 704

Enclosure:
Final SEs (Proprietary and non- Proprietary versions)

cc w/encl: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas B. Blount, Deputy Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Package Accession No. ML091730025; Letter Accession No. ML091730018
FinalSE (Proprietary) Accession No. ML ML091730020 (Non-Proprietary) Accession No. ML091730022

*No major changes to SE input. NRR-106

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