July 7, 2009

Mr. Doug Coleman, Chair
BWROG
Energy Northwest
Columbia Generating Station
Mail Drop PE20
P.O. Box 968
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON CONTAINMENT ACCIDENT PRESSURE USED FOR PUMP NET POSITIVE SUCTION HEAD

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is discussing with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) the use of containment accident pressure (CAP) to assure adequate net positive suction head (NPSH) for safety-related pumps. CAP is that pressure above ambient using assumptions to minimize containment pressure and maximize suppression pool temperature. This is not to be confused with the peak accident pressures calculated for containment integrity verification. CAP has been credited by some boiling water reactors (BWRs) to help ensure head pressure to the emergency core cooling system pumps or containment heat removal pumps.

The NRC staff developed the enclosed table that shows the magnitude and duration CAP is required. The table is limited to BWRs with a Mark I containment. The Mark II and Mark III containment designs do not need to credit CAP. The information in the table is from NRC-approved license amendments that credit CAP, with the exception of the license amendment requests for EPUs for Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant Units 1, 2, and 3 and Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. These EPU applications are currently under NRC review. The NRC requests your assistance with filling in the missing information and verifying that transcription errors have not been introduced in the remaining data. The NRC is not requesting any new or updated analyses. Please provide any comments or corrections via e-mail by August 28, 2009, to Bruce R. Heida at bruce.heida@nrc.gov.

The final table will be issued after making any necessary changes and will be made publicly available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). Below is a brief definition/explanation of selected headings within the table.

Definition/explanation of select Column headings in enclosed table:

Column 4: provides information on related documents, including ADAMS accession numbers and document date. Unless otherwise specified, the accession numbers are for incoming documents submitted by the licensee.

Column 5: lists the pumps requiring CAP to support the required Net Positive Suction Head (NPSH).

Column 6 provides the CAP available.

Column 7: provides the minimum CAP needed to support the required NPSH.

Column 8: is the margin as defined.

Columns 10 and 11: provide information on the extended power uprate.

Column 12: is the ratio of the licensed thermal power to the minimum volume of water in the suppression pool.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Michelle C. Honcharik at (301) 415-1774.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 691

Enclosure:
Draft Table

cc/encl.: See next page

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Mr. Richard Libra
Executive Vice Chair, BWR Owners' Group
Exelon Generation Co, LLC
200 Exelon Way
Mail Code KSA 2-N
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Rick.libra@exeloncorp.com

Mr. Richard Anderson
BWROG, Executive Chair
FPL Energy (DAEC)
Duane Arnold Energy Center
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324
rich.anderson@fpl.com

Mr. James F. Klapproth
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy
M/C A50
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28401
james.klapproth@ge.com

Mr. Joseph E. Conen, Vice Chair
Regulatory Response Group
BWR Owners' Group
DTE Energy-Fermi 2
200 TAC
6400 N. Dixie Highway
Newport, MI 48166
conenj@dteenergy.com

Dennis Madison, Hatch Vice President
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.
11028 Hatch Parkway North
Baxley, GA 31515-2010
drmadiso@southernco.com

Frederick Emerson
BWROG, Project Manager
Frederick.emerson@ge.com

Mr. Ken A. McCall, Program Manager
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy
M/C F12
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28401
kenneth.mccall@ge.com

Oscar Limpias
Entergy Nuclear Northeast
1340 Echelon Parkway.
Jackson, MS 39213-8202
olimpia@entergy.com

Joe Donahue
Progress Energy Inc.
410 S. Wilmington St.
PEB 6A
Raleigh, NC 27601-1849
joe.w.donahue@pgnmail.com

Paul J. Davison
Hope Creek Generating Station
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038
paul.davison@pseg.com

Mr. Ted Schiffley
Vice Chairman, BWROG
Exelon Generation Co., LLC.
Cornerstone II at Cantera
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555
frederick.schiffley@exeloncorp.com

Mr. Randy C. Bunt, Chair
Regulatory Response Group
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
40 Inverness Center Parkway/Bin B057
Birmingham, AL 35242
rcbunt@southernco.com