

August 9, 2010

Mr. James H. Riley, Director
Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE TOPICAL REPORT MATERIALS RELIABILITY PROGRAM (MRP): TECHNICAL BASIS FOR PREEMPTIVE WELD OVERLAYS FOR ALLOY 82/182 BUTT WELDS IN PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS (MRP-169) (TAC NO. MD8005)

Dear Mr. Riley:

By letter dated September 7, 2005, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted Topical Report (TR) Material Reliability Program (MRP): Technical Basis for Preemptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in Pressurized Water Reactors (MRP-169), Revision 0, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for review. In a letter to NEI dated April 26, 2007, the NRC discontinued its review of TR MRP-169, Revision 0. After an August 23, 2007, public pre-submittal meeting with the NRC staff, the NEI and the Electric Power Research Institute stated that they would submit the necessary documentation to re-initiate the NRC's review of TR MRP-169, Revision 0. By letter dated January 9, 2008, NEI re-submitted for NRC staff review TR MRP-169, Revision 0. The transmittal memo for the January 9, 2008, letter from NEI states that this document is considered to be non-proprietary.

By letters dated August 3, 2006 and April 7, 2008, the NRC staff issued a request for additional information (RAI) to NEI to support the review of TR MRP-169. By letters dated January 9, 2008, May 2, 2008, March 2, 2009, November 30, 2009, and February 3, 2010, NEI responded to the NRC staff's RAIs and provided supplemental information in support of the NRC staff's review of TR MRP-169.

By letter dated March 25, 2010, an NRC draft safety evaluation (SE) regarding our approval of TR MRP-169, Revision 1, was provided for your review and comment. By letters dated April 23, 2010 and June 9, 2010, NEI commented on the draft SE. The NRC staff's disposition of NEI's comments on the draft SE are discussed in the attachment to the final SE enclosed with this letter.

The NRC staff has found that TR MRP-169, Revision 1, is acceptable for referencing in licensing applications for pressurized water reactors to the extent specified and under the limitations delineated in the TR and in the enclosed final SE. The final SE defines the basis for our acceptance of the TR.

Our acceptance applies only to material provided in the subject TR. We do not intend to repeat our review of the acceptable material described in the TR. When the TR appears as a reference in license applications, our review will ensure that the material presented applies to the specific plant involved. License amendment or relief requests that deviate from this TR will be subject to a plant-specific review in accordance with applicable review standards.

In accordance with the guidance provided on the NRC website, we request that NEI publish an accepted version of this TR within three months of receipt of this letter. The accepted version shall incorporate this letter and the enclosed final SE after the title page. Also, the accepted version must contain historical review information, including NRC requests for additional information (RAI) and your responses after the title page. The accepted version shall include an "-A" (designating accepted) following the TR identification symbol.

By letter dated March 2, 2009, NEI stated that once the final SE was complete, all relevant information would be incorporated into TR MRP-169, Revision 2, which will be submitted to the NRC as the accepted version of this TR.

As an alternative to including the RAIs and RAI responses behind the title page, if changes to the TR were provided to the NRC staff to support the resolution of RAI responses, and the NRC staff reviewed and approved those changes as described in the RAI responses, there are two ways that the accepted version can capture the RAIs:

1. The RAIs and RAI responses can be included as an Appendix to the accepted version.
2. The RAIs and RAI responses can be captured in the form of a table (inserted after the final SE) which summarizes the changes as shown in the approved version of the TR. The table should reference the specific RAIs and RAI responses which resulted in any changes, as shown in the accepted version of the TR.

If future changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements affect the acceptability of this TR, NEI 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 Nos. 669 and 689

Enclosure:
Final SE

cc w/encl: See next page

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cc w/encl: See next page

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vka@nei.org

ewillis@epri.com

ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: NRR-043

ML101620010 (Cover Letter); ML101660468 (Enclosure)

OFFICE	PLPB/PM	PLPB /LA	DCI/CPNB	PLPB/BC	DPR/DD
NAME	TMensah	EHylton	TLupold	JJoliceur	TBlount
DATE	6/ 24/10	6/ 23/10	7/27/10	8/5/10	8/9/10

Nuclear Energy Institute
Electric Power Research Institute
cc:

Project No. 689
Project No. 669

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo, Senior Vice
President & Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Generation
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
arp@nei.org

Mr. Chris Larsen
Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
EPRI
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1338
cblarsen@epri.com

Mr. Jack Roe, Director
Security
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
jwr@nei.org

Mr. David J. Modeen
Director, External Affairs
EPRI
1300 W. T. Harris Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550
dmodeen@epri.com

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman
Washington Operations
ABB-Combustion Engineering, Inc.
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852
brinkmcb@westinghouse.com

Dr. Sean Bushart
EPRI
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1338
sbushart@epri.com

Mr. James Gresham, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355
greshaja@westinghouse.com

Mr. Kurt Edsinger
EPRI
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1338
kedsinge@epri.com

Ms. Barbara Lewis
Assistant Editor
Platts, Principal Editorial Office
1200 G St., N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Barbara.lewis@platts.com

Mr. Alexander Marion, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
am@nei.org

Mr. John Butler, Director
Operations Support
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708
jcb@nei.org

Mr. James H. Riley, Director
Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708
jhr@nei.org

J. Riley

- 2 -

Mr. Ken Canavan
EPRI
1300 W.T. Harris Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550
kcanavan@epri.com

Mr. Greg Selby
EPRI
1300 W. T. Harris Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550
gselby@epri.com

Mr. David Steininger
EPRI
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1338
dsteinin@epri.com

Mr. Neil Wilmshurst
EPRI
1300 W. T. Harris Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550
nwilmshu@epri.com