

July 19, 2012

Dennis Madison
Southern Nuclear
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE REVIEW OF ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EPRI) REPORT, "BWR [BOLING WATER REACTOR] VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT, TECHNICAL BASIS FOR INSPECTION RELIEF FOR BWR INTERNAL COMPONENTS WITH HYDROGEN INJECTION" TOPICAL REPORT (TR) BWR REPORT 1022844 (BWRVIP-62), REVISION 1, (TAC NO. ME8538)

Dear Mr. Madison:

By letter dated April 18, 2012, the EPRI submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review TR, BWR Report 1022844 (BWRVIP-62), Revision 1, "BWR Vessel Internals Project, Technical Basis for Inspection Relief with Hydrogen Injection." The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of BWRVIP-62 and found that the material presented provides the technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to complete a detailed technical review.

As discussed in a June 14, 2012, telephone conference with EPRI representatives, the NRC staff will prioritize its review of the TR. The first phase of the review will cover the evaluation of the online model for hydrogen water chemistry and the BWR Vessel Internal Application 3.1 model. The second phase will cover the EPRI response to lower-plenum concerns identified in the NRC staff review of Revision 0 of the TR.

The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by June 18, 2013, and its draft safety evaluation by April 18, 2014, for the first phase review. Milestones for the second phase will be provided at a future date once NRC staff has completed its first-phase review. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 1100 staff hours, including project management time, to complete both phases of the review. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon by the EPRI representatives in the June 14, 2012 telephone conference.

Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. By letter dated April 18, 2012, EPRI requested that the NRC staff review this TR on a fee-billable basis. Therefore, NRC staff hours will be billed accordingly.

D. Madison

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As with all TRs, the Safety Evaluation will be reviewed by the NRC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). During the course of this review, OGC considers whether any endorsement or acceptance of a TR by the NRC amounts to a rule as defined in the CRA. If this initial review concludes that the SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC will forward the package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and consideration. Any review by OMB would impact the schedule for the final issuance of the SE. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Joseph Holonich at (301) 415-7297.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Jolicoeur, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 704

D. Madison

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DATE	7/16/2012	7/3/2012	7/16/2012	7/19/2012

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