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January 31, 2013

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

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE BWRVIP [BOILING WATER REACTOR VESSEL INTERNALS PROJECT]-241 REPORT, “PROBABILISTIC FRACTURE MECHANICS EVALUATION FOR THE BOILING WATER REACTOR NOZZLE-TO-VESSEL SHELL WELDS AND NOZZLE BLEND RADII” (TAC NO. ME6328)

Dear Mr. Madison:

By letter dated April 26, 2011 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML11119A041), and supplemented by letter dated October 10, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12290A017), the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel Internals Project (BWRVIP) submitted the topical report (TR) BWRVIP-241, BWR Vessel and Internals Project Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics [(PFM)] Evaluation for the Nozzle-to-Vessel Shell Welds and Nozzle Blend Radium” for NRC review and approval. Based on its review of the information submitted by BWRVIP, the NRC staff finds the TR acceptable for referencing subject to the limitations specified in the TR and in the NRC safety evaluation (SE). Enclosed for BWRVIP review and comment is the NRC staff’s draft SE for the TR.

Pursuant to Section 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), we have determined that the enclosed draft SE may contain proprietary information. If you believe that any information in the enclosure is proprietary, please identify such information line-by-line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390. After 10 working days, the draft SE will be made publicly available, as appropriate, and an additional 10 working days are provided for you to comment on any factual errors or clarity concerns contained in the draft SE.

The final SE will be issued after making any necessary changes and will be made publicly available. The NRC staff’s disposition of your comments on the draft SE will be discussed in the final SE.

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D. Madison

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To facilitate the NRC staff's review of your comments, please provide a marked-up copy of the draft SE showing proposed changes and provide a summary table of the proposed changes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager for the review, Joseph J. Holonich at 301-415-7297.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Sheldon D. Stuchell, Acting Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 704

Enclosure:
Draft SE

D. Madison

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Sheldon D. Stuchell, Acting Chief
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Draft SE

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