

January 31, 2013

Dennis Madison
Southern Nuclear
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-13

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE REVIEW OF ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT, "BWRVIP-42, REVISION 1: BWR VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT, LOW PRESSURE COOLANT INJECTION (LPCI) COUPLING INSPECTION AND FLAW EVALUATION GUIDELINES" (TAC NO. MF0363)

Dear Mr. Madison:

By letter dated December 10, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12349A308), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR), Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Vessel and Internal Project (BWRVIP)-42, Revision 1: BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) Coupling Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines. The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of BWRVIP-42, Revision 1 and found that the material presented provides the technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to commence a detailed technical review.

The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by July 11, 2013, and its draft safety evaluation (SE) by February 23, 2014. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 400 staff hours including project management time. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in a telephone conference between Larry Steinert representing EPRI and the NRC staff on January 14, 2013.

In accordance with the letter dated December 11, 2012 (ADAMS No. ML12340A377), the fee branch has waived the Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* fees associated with this TR review.

As with all TRs, the SE 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

D. Madison

- 2 -

SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC staff 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/

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

Project No. 704

D. Madison

- 2 -

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