

May 26, 2015

Mr. W. Anthony Nowinowski
Executive Director, PWROG Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
1000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 380
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE PWROG REPORT ON MATERIAL ORIENTATION
TOUGHNESS ASSESSMENT FOR MITIGATING BRANCH TECHNICAL
POSITION 5-3 UNCERTAINTIES

Dear Mr. Nowinowski:

A public meeting was held on February 19, 2015, at Rockville, Maryland between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the industry to exchange information and discuss a variety of reactor pressure vessel (RPV) issues. Among them is the potential non-conservatism associated with using Branch Technical Position (BTP) 5-3 in Standard Review Plan, NUREG-0800 in determining the initial nil-ductility transition temperature (RT_{NDT}) values for RPV plate and forging materials. This issue was raised by AREVA Inc. in January 2014, and affects 19 pressurized water reactors (PWRs) which were designed and constructed using the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPVC) older than 1973 because it did not require complete test data to determine initial RT_{NDT} values in accordance with the later editions of ASME BPVC, Section III, NB-2331. Several presentations in the meeting were on this issue, which summarized the NRC and industry effort to date in characterizing, quantifying, and assessing the impact of this issue on operating plants.

The NRC is in the process of revising BTP 5-3 and considers the report underlying the PWR Owners Group (PWROG) presentation, "Material Orientation Toughness Assessment (MOTA) for the Purpose of Mitigating Branch Technical Position (BTP) 5-3 Uncertainties," useful in determining appropriate regulatory actions associated with this BTP revision. Therefore, the NRC requests the PWROG provide the report to assist the NRC staff to revise BTP 5-3.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 694

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