

Materials Information Exchange Meeting

Rockville, MD

May 24, 2017

Update on NRC Actions to Address Baffle-Former Bolt Degradation



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NRC Response

- NRC has evaluated this issue in an established risk-informed decision making process (LIC-504) (ML16225A341)
 - Considered risk from both LOCA and seismic events.
 - Determined that the immediate safety risk was low for operating for at least one additional cycle; therefore, most appropriate action was to conduct inspection during next refueling outage.
- NRC is monitoring the analysis, repair, root cause evaluations, and implications for the affected units as they perform inspections.
- NRC inspectors at susceptible plants are ensuring that licensees address the issue in their corrective action programs and will inspect the licensee evaluations.

NRC Concerns

- MRP interim guidance does not address methodology of plant-specific evaluations of subsequent examination interval
- Licensees should ensure that subsequent examination intervals:
 - Are based on plant-specific examinations with an appropriate level of rigor
 - Provide reasonable assurance of continued safe operation
- Subsequent examinations are needed to refine predictive models

Summary

- Baffle-former bolt degradation is not a significant safety issue for U.S. plants, based on
 - NRC's risk-informed evaluation
 - The industry inspection guidance
 - The actual baffle-former bolt degradation findings
 - Structural analysis to date
- Industry and NRC need to continue to work to understand baffle-former bolt degradation to ensure no challenges to safe operation in the longer term

NRC Path Forward

- Staff will publish staff assessment and a Regulatory Information Summary (RIS) to document position on baffle-former bolt inspection guidance
 - Waiting for answers to questions discussed at April 12, 2017 public meeting before finalizing assessment
- NRC will formally document its position on the revised guidance for baffle-former bolts in its safety evaluation of MRP-227, Rev. 1, currently under review.
- NRC has and will continue to closely monitor licensee corrective actions at affected plants, including analysis, repair, and determination of subsequent examination interval