

Public Meeting on Baffle-Former Bolt Degradation

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NRC Baffle-Former Bolts Guidance Development Status



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Status of NRC Review of EPRI Interim Guidance

- NRC is reviewing two EPRI MRP Interim Guidance Letters
- MRP 2016-021, July 25, 2016
 - Initial examination schedule for Tier 1 plants
- MRP 2017-009, March 15, 2017
 - Initial examination schedule for all tiers
 - Limit on maximum interval for subsequent examination for all tiers
- Both submitted for information only to NRC
- Staff assessment should be complete in late Summer 2017, pending MRP response to questions
- Staff assessment will document NRC's position on the interim guidance, not binding to licenses

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

NRC Path Forward

- Staff will publish staff assessment to document position on baffle-former bolt inspection guidance (2017)
- 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.
 - RAI addresses baffle-former bolt examination (response 9/2017)
 - SE expected 3Q 2018, possibly earlier in 2018
- No interim staff guidance, would take as long as MRP-227, Rev. 1 SE, and GALL would still have to be updated later.
- Revise GALL, Rev. 2 and GALL-SLR to reference NRC-approved version of MRP-227, Rev. 1. (2019)