



**MRP** Materials Reliability Program \_\_\_\_\_ MRP 2024-002  
(via email)

Date: February 23, 2024

To: Howard K. Osborne, NRC Chief Financial Officer  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-001

Subject: Request for Exemption of NRC Review Fees for MRP-484 (Reference: EPRI Docket Number 99902021.)

References:

1. MRP Letter 2024-001, Report Transmittal: *Materials Reliability Program: Guidance on Timing for Technical Specifications Revision Following Surveillance Capsule Testing (MRP-484)*. EPRI, Palo Alto, CA: 2023. 3002026457. (Reference: EPRI Docket No. 99902021.)
2. *Materials Reliability Program: Guidance on Timing for Technical Specifications Revision Following Surveillance Capsule Testing (MRP-484)*. EPRI, Palo Alto, CA: 2023. 3002026457.
3. SECY-22-0019, *Rulemaking Plan for the Revision of Embrittlement and Surveillance Requirements for High-Fluence Nuclear Power Plants in Long-Term Operation*, dated March 8, 2022, ADAMS Accession No. ML21314A215.

The purpose of this letter is to request that the document entitled *Materials Reliability Program: Guidance on Timing for Technical Specifications Revision Following Surveillance Capsule Testing (MRP-484)*. EPRI, Palo Alto, CA: 2023. 3002026457., be exempt from NRC review fees in accordance with 10CFR170.11(a)(1)(ii), specifically under the “generic regulatory improvement” clause, and 10CFR170.11(b).

In its current form, neither 10 CFR 50, Appendix H, nor ASTM E185-82, invoked by reference in Appendix H, is clear regarding an exact time frame within which revised Technical Specifications, i.e., Pressure-Temperature (P-T) Limits, or plant operating procedures should be made if the outcome of surveillance testing indicates revisions are needed. Section IV.C of Appendix H states that (***emphasis added***):

“If a change in the Technical Specifications is required, either in the pressure-temperature limits or in the operating procedures required to meet the limits, ***the expected date for submittal of the revised Technical Specifications must be provided with the*** [surveillance] ***report.***”

MRP-484 provides a technical basis supporting generic and conservative guidance, relevant to the entire US PWR fleet, for when Technical Specifications revisions must be reported:

**As part of surveillance capsule withdrawal and reporting to the NRC, plants assess the need to update their Technical Specifications in compliance with Section IV.C of Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50. If a need to update the Technical Specifications is identified, then plants must submit that update to the NRC for review within 5 years**

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**of the date they submitted the surveillance capsule report. This 5-year reporting timeframe is constrained by the expiration of current P-T limits as well as by compliance with the reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.61 if either is more limiting. The 5-year reporting timeframe may be extended based on plant-specific justifications making use of the information in this report, subject to the review and approval of the NRC.**

Concerning absent-specific guidance for the time frame within which P-T limits need to be updated, U.S. PWR utilities have on several occasions been encouraged to unnecessarily expedite these updates, especially when new measurements exceed those predicted by the Regulatory Guide 1.99, Revision 2. The guidance developed in this report should alleviate this pressure, thereby enabling more routine planning for post-capsule withdrawal actions.

In conclusion, the NRC's one-time review of MRP-484 document should reduce The Staff effort required for expedited individual plant Technical Specifications reviews, while substantially decreasing the burden on U.S. PWR utilities to generate these revisions, where necessary, in an expedited fashion. It will also support future NRC Staff review planning for both surveillance capsules and Technical Specifications updates, within the 5-year post capsule testing interval, because the report gives a detailed overview of the next planned capsule for each plant that is planning to perform further capsule testing under Appendix H across the entire PWR fleet.

Lastly, in support of the NRC's efforts to potentially revise Regulatory Guide 1.99, Revision 2 (See Reference 3), this report provides a detailed analysis of the materials in every upcoming planned capsule in the PWR fleet to assess the likelihood that future capsule testing will reveal large differences between  $\Delta T_{41J}$  measurements and the predictions of RG1.99R2. This information is summarized in Appendix A of the report.

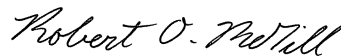
At present, EPRI is not requesting that a formal pre-submittal meeting be held; however, after an initial review of the document by the NRC, if a meeting to discuss the document is deemed necessary, the need for a meeting can be revisited at that time.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Bob McGill at EPRI ([rmcgill@epri.com](mailto:rmcgill@epri.com), 650-855-8568) or Elliot J. Long ([elong@epri.com](mailto:elong@epri.com), 412-495-6659).

Sincerely,



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