

BWRVIP

BWR Vessel &
Internals Project

Issue Management and Resolution

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 1999

TO: BWRVIP Executive Committee

FROM: Vaughn Wagoner/Warren Bilanin

SUBJECT: Request for Information on Surveillance Capsule Withdrawal Schedules

The purpose of this memo is to request information regarding current schedules for near term withdrawal of surveillance capsules.

The BWRVIP is initiating development of an Integrated BWR Surveillance Program (ISP), incorporating existing capsules and the BWR Supplemental Surveillance Program (SSP) capsules developed by the BWR Owners Group. The purpose of the ISP will be to make the most efficient use of existing capsules and surveillance materials for monitoring and predicting embrittlement in BWR reactor pressure vessels. BWRVIP has made a commitment to submit a program plan to the NRC by the end of 1999.

The BWRVIP has received several inquiries from member utilities concerning the need to withdraw and test capsules prior to final NRC approval of the ISP. Based on an informal survey, it appears that, during the next 18 to 24 months many utilities are scheduled to withdraw surveillance capsules. A Phase 1 study performed in 1998 showed that as many as 11 surveillance capsules could be eliminated from the test program. Consequently, the ISP may demonstrate that some of the capsules that are scheduled to be withdrawn during the next 18 to 24 months could be deferred indefinitely.

The NRC staff has indicated that they are willing to entertain a request to defer withdrawal of all surveillance capsules until such time as the ISP has been approved and is ready for implementation. As a result, the BWRVIP is encouraging all members to postpone their surveillance capsule withdrawal. The BWRVIP is also considering preparing a generic request format that may be used by the affected utilities to obtain NRC approval to defer capsule withdrawals. At this time it is our understanding that a license amendment will be required by each utility to implement this deferral. We will continue our discussions with the NRC to determine the optimum course of action and to ensure that the BWRVIP request format provides adequate information to address the NRC's needs for the affected utilities. However, additional information regarding current surveillance capsule withdrawal schedules would assist the BWRVIP in these interactions with the NRC.

A form is attached to this letter that requests the following information for your plant(s):

1. Indicate if you will be withdrawing a surveillance capsule prior to January 2001.
2. If your plans call for a capsule withdrawal, indicate if you would be willing to defer the withdrawal until such time as the ISP is approved by NRC and a determination is made if your capsule should be tested.

Please complete the attached BWRVIP Response Form and return it by fax to the number indicated by the close of business Friday, February 5, 1999. Please reply to this request even if you have no capsules scheduled for withdrawal prior to January 2001. It is essential that we receive the withdrawal schedules for all BWRs to adequately represent the BWR fleet in the interactions with the NRC. If you have any questions on this subject please contact Bob Carter at EPRI Charlotte by telephone at (704) 547-6019 or by e-mail at bcarter@epri.com

c: BWRVIP Technical Chairmen
BWRVIP EPRI Task Managers

BWRVIP RESPONSE FORM

Please complete the following by the close of business Friday, February 5, 1999 and return by FAX to:

Warren Bilanin
EPRI
FAX (650) 855-2774

From: _____
(Executive Committee member name)

(utility)

Subject: Surveillance Capsule Withdrawal Schedules

Plant Name: _____

Scheduled capsule withdrawal: _____
(date prior to January 2001)

_____ We would be willing to defer this capsule withdrawal until such time as the ISP is approved by the NRC and a determination is made if this capsule should be tested

_____ We would **not** be willing to defer this capsule withdrawal until such time as the ISP is approved by the NRC and a determination is made if this capsule should be tested

Comments: