



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 2, 1999

Carl Terry, BWRVIP Chairman
Niagara Mohawk Power Company
Post Office Box 63
Lycoming, NY 13093

**SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION OF BWR CORE SPRAY INTERNALS
INSPECTION AND FLAW EVALUATION GUIDELINES (BWRVIP-18)
(TAC NO. M96219)**

Dear Mr. Terry:

The NRC staff has completed its review of the proposed revisions to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) proprietary report TR-106740, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-18)," dated July 1996. This report was submitted by letter dated July 28, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated October 8, 1997, for NRC staff review and approval.

On June 8, 1998, the NRC staff issued its initial safety evaluation (SE) of the BWRVIP-18 report, which found the BWRVIP-18 report to be acceptable for inspection and assessment of the subject safety-related core spray internal components, except where the NRC staff's conclusions differed from the BWRVIP's, as discussed in the SE. The BWRVIP was requested to resolve the open issues raised in the staff's initial SE. By letter dated January 11, 1999, you provided a response which proposed guidance to resolve the issues identified in the NRC staff's initial SE.

The NRC staff has reviewed your proposed revisions to the BWRVIP-18 report and finds, in the enclosed final safety evaluation, that your response to the open issues is acceptable, with one exception, based on information submitted by the above cited letters. The exception is the guidance to the issue pertaining to the consideration of inspection uncertainties in flaw evaluations. The NRC staff has determined that the inspection uncertainties associated with flaw evaluations are not small and could have significant impact on flaw evaluation results. This is discussed in greater detail in the attached SE, and was discussed with members of the BWRVIP during a public meeting on July 21, 1999. As per this discussion, the NRC staff understands that the BWRVIP agrees to incorporate this item into a revised BWRVIP-18 report. Therefore, the staff has concluded that licensee implementation of the guidelines in the BWRVIP-18 report, subject to incorporation of inspection uncertainties as stated in the attached SE, will provide an acceptable level of quality for examination of the safety-related components addressed in the BWRVIP-18 report.

The staff requests that the BWRVIP incorporate the staff's recommendations regarding the issue of inspection uncertainties, as well as your response to other issues raised in the staff's initial SE, into a revised, final BWRVIP-18 report. Please inform the staff within 90 days of the date of this letter as to your proposed actions and schedule for such a revision.

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Carl Terry

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Please contact C. E. (Gene) Carpenter, Jr., of my staff at (301) 415-2169 if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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