

November 29, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering

FROM: Edmund J. Sullivan, Chief */ral/*
NDE & Metallurgy Section
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 20, 2000, PHONE CALL
REGARDING NEI 97-06 AND THE ASSOCIATED GENERIC
LICENSING CHANGE PACKAGE

On June 20, 2000, the NRC staff conducted a conference call with representatives of Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and nuclear power utilities to discuss issues related to the steam generator generic licensing change package.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Indian Point 2 Issues

The staff discussed several issues that it has identified following the steam generator tube failure event at Indian Point 2. The issues include (1) is the industry going to make recommendations with respect to the use of high frequency probes, (2) is the industry going to make recommendations with respect to the inspection of small radius U-bends, (3) is the industry going to make recommendations with respect to data quality, and (4) can the industry provide information on typical signal-to-noise ratios during steam generator tube inspections.

Industry representatives indicated that two meetings were planned in the next several weeks and all these issues would be discussed. A technical advisory group (TAG) meeting was scheduled for the week of June 26, 2000, and a nondestructive examination (NDE) workshop meeting was scheduled for the week of July 10, 2000. Industry representatives stated that following these two meetings, they would be able to address the subject issues. A meeting between the staff and industry was tentatively planned for the week of July 24, 2000.

The staff also requested that the industry discuss any other lessons learned from the Indian Point 2 steam generator tube failure during the meeting.

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2. Arkansas Unit 2 Issue

The staff discussed a recent issue at Arkansas Unit 2 regarding the determination of steam generator tube burst pressure. Specifically, the issue relates to the time dependence of the pressure rate increase to the steam generator tube burst pressure. Recent data from Arkansas Unit 2 seems to indicate that the pressure at which a steam generator tube bursts during testing is dependent on the rate of pressure increase. The staff requested that NEI review the issue and inform the staff of any industry recommendations or initiatives it may be considering. NEI indicated that the issue would be discussed at the upcoming TAG meeting and that they would inform the staff of any recommendations they might make following the meeting.

3. In-Situ Pressure Testing Issue

The staff discussed the issue of steam generator tube in-situ testing. Specifically, the staff stated that on several occasions licensees have been excluding steam generator tubes from in-situ testing based on various factors. The staff stated that in excluding these tubes, licensees were not meeting the intent of the in-situ testing guidelines and requested that the industry look into the issue.

4. Steam Generator Generic License Change Package

Industry representatives discussed two separate issues related to NEI 97-06 and the associated generic licensing change package. Due to the delay in the staff's review of the package, the industry is preparing a revision to NEI 97-06 which the industry could utilize now. The revision would incorporate a number of NRC/industry recommendations which have been made over the last two years to improve the steam generator tube integrity programs, excluding those related to the proposed generic technical specifications which have not been approved by the staff. Industry representatives indicated that the revision would go out to industry for comments shortly and should be issued formally in the July/August time frame.

The industry also discussed a revision to the steam generator generic licensing change package. The revision would include wording changes to the technical requirements manual section, clarifying the reactor coolant operational leakage technical specification, and other editorial changes. Industry representatives stated that the revision should go out for industry comment in late July or early August and should be formally submitted for staff review in August.

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