

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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June 29, 2001

Dr. Brian W. Sheron
Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O5-E7
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: Response to June 22, 2001, letter from Dr. Brian Sheron (NRC) to Mr. Alex Marion (NEI) transmitting NRC staff questions on EPRI Interim Report TP-1001491, Part 2

PROJECT NUMBER: 689

Dear Dr. Sheron:

This letter provides industry responses to NRC questions on TP-1001491, Part 2, *PWR Materials Reliability Project Interim Alloy 600 Safety Assessments for US PWR Plants* (MRP-44). The responses are contained in the enclosed report MRP2001-050 (proprietary and non-proprietary versions) along with the associated affidavit requesting that the NRC withhold select portions of the report.

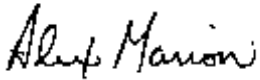
Table 2 of the enclosure identifies the plants that fall within the top three assessment groups of the susceptibility ranking with Fall 2001 refueling outages. Utility validation of the specific design and fabrication data, and operating conditions resulted in a change in the number of plants. There are currently 8 PWR plants that fall within the 10 effective full power year operating time of Oconee Unit 3. Efforts are underway to provide the necessary support in terms of inspection techniques, tooling and training of inspection teams. Enhanced visual inspections will be conducted of the reactor vessel head.

We are continuing our efforts to validate data similar to that listed in Table 2 for the remaining PWR plants and expect to be completed by the end of July. The remaining items dealing with interference fits for the Westinghouse plant designs, risk assessment, crack growth and finite element stress analysis will be included in the final assessment report.

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If you have any question about the enclosures, please contact Kurt Cozens at 202-739-8085, koc@nei.org or me.

Sincerely,



Alex Marion

AM/maa
Enclosures

- c: Mr. Jack R. Strosnider, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Jacob I. Zimmerman, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- bc: Mr. Jack A. Bailey, Tennessee Valley Authority
Mr. Larry Mathews, Southern Nuclear Operating Company
Mr. C. Welty, Electric Power Research Institute