

MRP

Materials Reliability Project _____ MRP 2001-015

March 1, 2001

TO: MRP Senior Representatives:

Subject: MRP 82/182 Weld Integrity Inspection Committee, Short Term Inspection Guidance

In order to provide for a consistent inspection approach, and to enhance awareness of potential signal anomalies, near-term inspection recommendations have been developed by the 82/182 Weld Integrity Inspection Committee of the MRP Alloy 600 ITG. The Committee met in Charlotte on February 1, 2001, to review the V. C. Summer Reactor Pressure Vessel "A" Hot Leg Nozzle and the Oconee, Unit 1 CRDM weld cracking events. After review and evaluation, the following recommendations for plants having Spring 2001 outages are provided:

Proceed with currently planned ISI using qualified inspectors and techniques. (There is no recommendation to augment volumetric inspections to include Alloy 82/182 welds not already scheduled for inspection.)

Review the Generic Letter 88-05 Boron Inspection and ASME Pressure Testing Programs considering the events at Oconee and V. C. Summer. Enhance the sensitivity of those performing these inspections, with emphasis placed on areas known to contain alloy 82/182 weld materials.

Review leak detection programs considering the events at Oconee and V. C. Summer. Sensitize operators and inspectors to small changes in leak rates and to potential leak sources.

Review with ISI vendors the events at V. C. Summer and Oconee, and sensitize inspectors to inspection capabilities, limitations and results. For 82/182 welds being inspected this outage, review previous inspection results and history for significant obstructions, limitations and findings.

For those units that have 10 year reactor pressure vessel ISI scheduled for Spring 2001, the following additional recommendations apply:

Continue with current plans for utilizing ultrasonic techniques applied from the inside surface of the nozzle. The Committee has determined that this is the best available technique at this time, and is considered adequate for the spring 2001 outages.

Ensure that utility inspection personnel are knowledgeable of the ISI vendor's techniques, capabilities and limitations. Conduct a demonstration of the capability of UT using an appropriate mockup. The EPRI NDE Center has a mockup that is available for this purpose and which has been used for several demonstrations. The NDE Center staff has assisted in these demonstrations and is available for technical assistance.

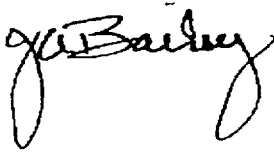
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Communicate inspection planning, techniques, and results with the EPRI NDE Center which will be the focal point to ensure consistency of technology application.

These recommendations are made considering the current capabilities of available inspection techniques and equipment and the availability of inspection mock-ups. Longer-range plans will address applicability and the need for considering other inspection techniques, development of additional mock-ups, recommendations for qualification of techniques through coordination with PDI, and additional recommendations for units scheduled for 10-year ISI during Fall, 2001.

I strongly urge you to consider these recommendations in planning for upcoming outages, and to adopt them where appropriate. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (423-751-4776), Larry Mathews, Southern Nuclear, Chairman Alloy 600 ITG (205-992-7729) or Chuck Welty, EPRI (650-855-2821).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Bailey". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "J" and a cursive "Bailey".

Jack Bailey
Chairman, MRP Senior Representatives

cc: A. Marion (NEI)
J. Woodard (SNO)
M. Tuckman (Duke)
L. Mathews (SNO)
C. Welty (EPRI)
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