

January 8, 2002

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - CLARIFICATION OF
LEAKAGE INSPECTION (TAC NO. MB1065)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On November 10, 2000, AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of an alternative repair to two leaking control rod drive (CRD) housings. This request was based on the guidance contained in the BWRVIP-17 report, "Roll/Expansion Repair of Control Rod Drive and In-Core Instrumentation Penetrations in BWR Vessels." Although this report has not been approved for generic use by the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) licensees, it has been used as a basis of plant-specific repairs. On November 16, 2000, the NRC staff approved this request.

By letter dated January 19, 2001, AmerGen clarified the conditions under which the leakage inspections for the control rod drive (CRD) housings will be initiated and what limits should apply. Part of the alternative repair was to follow page 7 in the section entitled, "Penetration Leakage Acceptance Limits" contained in the BWRVIP-17 report.

The CRD housing leakage limits specified in BWRVIP-17 are dependent upon the length of the outage when the leakage inspections are performed. Certain leakage limits apply when the outage is less than 7 days (Table 2-3). Other leakage limits apply when the outage is greater than 7 days (Table 2-4). Because the tables do not address what limits should apply if the outage is planned for a nominal duration of 7 days, AmerGen will apply the leakage limits of Table 2-3 if the planned outage duration is 7 days or less. The heading on Table 2-3 in BWRVIP-17 refers to leakage limits for inspections during forced outages of less than 7 days. AmerGen believes that the leakage limits in Table 2-3 should apply to inspections during outages of opportunity of 7 days or less whether they are scheduled or forced. Also, the leakage limits of Table 2-3 would still remain applicable if a scheduled or forced outage is initially planned for 7 days or less and is subsequently extended due to unforeseen or emerging circumstances.

AmerGen intends to perform the CRD housing leakage inspection only if there is a need to enter the drywell during a planned or forced outage regardless of expected outage length, in order to reduce occupational dose.

O. D. Kingsley

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The NRC staff has reviewed these notes of clarification and believes that they meet the intent of the BWRVIP-17 guidance. Therefore, the NRC staff has no objection to these points of clarification.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Helen N. Pastis, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-219

cc: See next page

O. D. Kingsley

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The NRC staff has reviewed these notes of clarification and believes that they meet the intent of the BWRVIP-17 guidance. Therefore, the NRC staff has no objection to these points of clarification.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Helen N. Pastis, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
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Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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