

September 15, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard J. Laufer, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Robert Clark, Project Manager, Section 1 /RA/
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 21, 2003, WITH THE
INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS RE: MATERIALS
DEGRADATION INSPECTION AND REVIEW PROGRAM (TAC NO.
M40058)

On August 21, 2003, representatives of the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) met with the members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information with the NRC about materials-related programs and answer questions on INPO materials activities.

In July 2002, INPO formed a materials group to align with the nuclear industry's materials improvement initiative in an overall effort to anticipate unforeseen material degradation issues. One of INPO's key roles is to conduct detailed, on-site material review visits to ensure consistent implementation of industry guidelines and to promote excellence in the safety and reliability of industry material programs. The review visit programs include steam generators, boiling-water reactor (BWR) vessel and internals, and pressurized-water reactor (PWR) primary systems integrity (which includes boric acid corrosion control). Although the materials group was formed in July 2002, the steam generator review visits actually began in mid-1995 at industry request.

All PWRs have received a steam generator review visit, 4 BWRs remain to complete the first round of BWR vessel and internals visits, and 12 of 41 PWRs have received a PWR primary system integrity visit.

Through these visits, INPO can identify any outliers with regard to industry guidelines, provide feedback to improve industry guidelines, address individual plant performance weaknesses, and broadly communicate issues of concern to prompt industry action.

The Nuclear Energy Institute NEI 03 - 08, "Guideline for the Management of Material Issues," lists specific roles and responsibilities for INPO to improve overall industry performance on material issues. Conduct of these on-site review programs provides an effective oversight that has and will continue to raise industry performance standards regarding potential material degradation.

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Meeting slides were used to provide an overview of INPO materials degradation inspection and review program. In addition, Louise Lund of the NRC staff gave a presentation regarding, "Recent Steam Generator Issues."

A list of attendees is given in Enclosure 1, a copy of the handout provided by INPO is given in Enclosure 2, and a copy of the handout provided by the NRC staff is given in Enclosure 3.

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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MEETING BETWEEN NRC AND
INSTITUTE FOR NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONS

ATTENDANCE LIST

AUGUST 21, 2003

NRC

B. Bateman, NRR
G. Grimes, NRR
L. Lund, NRR
E. Sullivan, NRR
R. Clark, NRR
T. Chan, NRR
C. Khan, NRR
B. Elliot, NRR
C. Green, NRR
C. Moyer, RES
T. Santos, RES
M. Kirk, RES
M. Khanna, NRR
G. Cheruvenki, NRR

INPO

D. Berko
J. Ewin
R. Jacobs
S. Johnson
R. Warren
J. Makar
F. Chapelier

NEI

A. Marion

INDUSTRY

D. Raleigh, LIS Scientech
B. Hermann, SI
E. Hiruo, Platts

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**NRC
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