

September 15, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert Gramm, Chief, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management

FROM: Stephen R. Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1/**RA**/  
  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AUGUST 19, 2003, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR  
ENERGY INSTITUTE, MATERIALS RELIABILITY PROGRAM, AND  
INDUSTRY RELATED TO BULLETIN 2003-02, "LEAKAGE FROM  
REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL LOWER HEAD PENETRATIONS AND  
REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY" (TAC NO.  
MB9891)

On August 19, 2003, members of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in a public meeting with representatives from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Electric Power Research Institute - Materials Reliability Program (MRP), and various nuclear reactor licensees. The NRC staff established a telephone conference line to provide interested individuals an opportunity to participate in this meeting. The bridge number and meeting slides were made available prior to the meeting on the NRC web site for this issue (Reactor Vessel Bottom Head Penetration Leakage) <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/bottom-head-penetration-leakage/public-meetings.html>. Included as part of these presentations was a draft version of Bulletin 2003-02, "Leakage From Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity." The enclosure lists the meeting attendees and those participating by telephone. This was a Category 2 public meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to brief the industry and external stakeholders on the development of proposed Bulletin 2003-02, which requested licensees to evaluate their reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower head inspection programs, and to discuss how the event at South Texas Project, Unit 1, influenced the development of this bulletin.

Mr. Brian Sheron, the Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, provided an opening statement on behalf of the NRC staff. Mr. Sheron indicated that due to the event at South Texas Project, Unit 1, the NRC staff needed to obtain information on the condition of the industry's RPV lower head penetrations. He stated the bulletin was the beginning of the NRC staff's generic communication program for the RPV lower head, and the NRC staff will use this information to determine the need for additional regulatory actions or inspections, such as volumetric examinations of the RPV lower head penetrations. Finally, Mr. Sheron noted that MRP's letter dated June 23, 2003, recommended that the industry perform a 360 degree bare metal visual inspection of each RPV lower head penetration.

Mr. Alex Marion of NEI made an opening statement on behalf of NEI. Mr. Marion stated that the industry's actions were consistent with the direction the NRC staff was taking with this proposed bulletin. Mr. Marion indicated that a number of nuclear power plants had already

completed or were planning to conduct inspections of their RPV lower head penetrations. Afterwards, a representative of MRP notified the NRC staff the industry is considering issuing guidance on how nuclear power plants should resolve findings of boric acid deposits or corrosion.

Mr. Ted Sullivan, the lead technical reviewer from the Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch of the Division of Engineering, presented background information on South Texas Project, Unit 1, and discussed the NRC staff's approach for issuing proposed Bulletin 2003-02. This included a historical perspective of previous RPV lower head examinations conducted in France and the United States. He presented the requested information and schedule contained in the proposed bulletin, and the NRC staff's reasons for requesting this information. In addition, he discussed the NRC staff's interest in seeing industry develop guidance for resolving findings of boric acid deposits. He also discussed potential longer-term implications of the bulletin's inspections.

Following this presentation, Mr. Marion discussed the proposed bulletin's reporting requirement that would require licensees to submit to the NRC staff, within 30 days after plant restart, a summary of the inspections performed, a description of the as-found condition of the RPV lower head, and a discussion of any findings of boric acid deposits. Mr. Marion requested that this due date be changed from 30 days to 60 days in order to be aligned with the reporting requirements specified in NRC Order EA-03-009, "Issuance of Order Establishing Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads at Pressurized Water Reactors," dated February 11, 2003. The NRC staff stated it would take this request under consideration. In addition to this question, the NRC staff addressed other questions on plant technical specification requirements prohibiting through-wall leakage.

Enclosure: Meeting Attendance List

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OFFICE	PDII-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	SMonarque	DLJ for MMcAllister	RGramm
DATE	9/9/2003	9/9/2003	9/12/2003

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**MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI), MATERIALS RELIABILITY  
PROGRAM (MRP), AND INDUSTRY**

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**BULLETIN 2003-02**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>ORGANIZATION</u></b>
Dave Bajumpaa	Dominion Nuclear Connecticut
Paul Bessette	MLB
Dea Schlade	Framatome ANP
Craig Harrington	TXU Energy
Larry Mathews	Southern Nuclear
Jim Riley	NEI
David Distel	Exelon
Alex Marion	NEI
Patricia Campbell	Winston & Strawn LLP
Terry Knuettel	TVA
R. Dana Cough	TVA
Altheia Wyche	SERCH Licensing - Bechtel
H. M. Fontecilla	Dominion
Deann Raleigh	LIS, Scientech
Tomeho Yamada	SAE
Robert Hermann	SI
Brian Sheron	NRC
Stephen Monarque	NRC
Ted Sullivan	NRC
Tanya Mensah	NRC
Eva Brown	NRC
Elaine Hiruo	Platts
Brian Kemp	NMC
Bill Bateman	NRC
John A. Nakoski	NRC
Jim Bennetch	Dominion Generation
Mitch Singer	VEI
David Lochbaum	Union of Concerned Scientists
Brendan Moroney	NRC
Carol Moyer	NRC
Paul Gunther	NIRS
Daniel Garner	American Electric Power

Enclosure

**The following individuals attended the meeting by telephone.**

Harvey Beeman	Dominion Nuclear CT
Scott Boggs	FPL
Bill Brice	Entergy
Al Butcavage	RGE
Loretta Cecilia	Crystal River, Unit 3
Dana Covill	Progress Energy
John Crane	Westinghouse
Eddie Edwards	Ohio Emergency Management
Rod Emory	Duke Power Company
Rick Garner	Progress Energy
Greg Gerzen	Exelon
Don Goodin	TVA
Patrick Guevel	Wolf Creek Generating Station
John Hall	Westinghouse
Greg Kent	Duke Energy
Scott Koernschild	Exelon Byron Station
David LaFleur	Florida Power and Light
Ted Lang	First Energy
Mike Melton	Arizona Public Service
Ben Montgomery	Ameren UE
Michael Mosier	PSEG
Gordon Pickering	Entergy
Jeff Portney	PG&E
Mark Reddemann	NMC
Dave Shafer	Ameren UE Callaway Plant
Thomas Shaub	Dominion
Joe Silha	Reuters News
Charles Tudor	Florida Power & Light
Dale Wuokko	First Energy