

March 10, 2006

Bill Eaton, BWRVIP Chairman  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Echelon One  
1340 Echelon Parkway  
Jackson, MS 39213-8202

SUBJECT: NRC APPROVAL LETTER FOR BWRVIP-58-A, "BWR VESSEL AND  
INTERNALS PROJECT, CRD INTERNAL ACCESS WELD REPAIR"

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated October 31, 2005, the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) submitted Proprietary Report BWRVIP-58-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, CRD Internal Access Weld Repair," for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review. The BWRVIP-58-A report provides the technical basis and application of an internal access weld repair for leaking control rod drive (CRD) housing penetrations in BWR/2 through BWR/5 reactors. The repair weld was designed to replace the load carrying capability of the CRD housing-to-stub tube J-weld, in addition to providing a seal to prevent leakage from the reactor pressure vessel (RPV). The BWRVIP provided the BWRVIP-58-A report to support generic regulatory efforts related to the weld repair of BWR CRD housing penetrations.

The BWRVIP-58-A report presents a compilation of information from the BWRVIP-58 report and the NRC staff final safety evaluation (SE) dated July 12, 2004, which includes the BWRVIP's associated responses to NRC staff requests for additional information (RAIs) and open items.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information in the BWRVIP-58-A report and has found that the report accurately incorporates all of the relevant information which was submitted by the BWRVIP in the documents noted above to support NRC staff approval of the report. The staff found that minimal revisions were made to the BWRVIP-58 report in the production of the BWRVIP-58-A report. These revisions are discussed in detail below.

The first revision was that the BWRVIP added text to Section 4.2.1 of the BWRVIP-58 report to address an open item that was identified in the staff's initial SE, dated October 17, 2001, on the BWRVIP-58 report. With respect to this open item, the staff requested that the BWRVIP update the references to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Case N-606 to ASME Code Case N-606-1. The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately revised Section 4.2.1 of the BWRVIP-58 report to include a discussion of ASME Code Case N-606-1 and revised all references to ASME Code Case N-606 to the updated version, ASME Code Case N-606-1.

B. Eaton

-2-

The second revision was that the BWRVIP revised the text in Section 2.2 of the BWRVIP-58 report to address the staff's recommendation to clarify that crack growth from fatigue was evaluated for life extension. The staff determined that the BWRVIP adequately revised Section 2.2 of the BWRVIP-58 report to indicate that crack growth from fatigue was evaluated for life extension.

Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-58-A report is acceptable. Please contact Meena Khanna of my staff at (301) 415-2150 if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

William H. Bateman, Deputy Director  
Division of Component Integrity  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: BWRVIP Service List

B. Eaton

-2-

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Based on the discussion above, the staff has determined that the BWRVIP-58-A report is acceptable. Please contact Meena Khanna of my staff at (301) 415-2150 if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

William H. Bateman, Deputy Director  
Division of Component Integrity  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: BWRVIP Service List

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OFFICE	CVIB:DCI	E	CVIB:DCI	E	DCI:ADES	
NAME	MKhanna		MAMitchell		WHBateman	
DATE	03/01/2006		03/02/2006		03/10/2006	

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CC:

Tom Mulford, EPRI BWRVIP  
Integration Manager  
Raj Pathania, EPRI BWRVIP  
Mitigation Manager  
Ken Wolfe, EPRI BWRVIP  
Repair Manager  
Larry Steinert, EPRI BWRVIP  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
3412 Hillview Ave.  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

George Inch, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Assessment Committee  
Constellation Nuclear  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (M/S ESB-1)  
348 Lake Road  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Jeff Goldstein, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Mitigation Committee  
Entergy Nuclear NE  
440 Hamilton Ave. (M/S K-WPO-11c)  
White Plains, NY 10601

Amir Shahkarami, BWRVIP Executive Oversight Committee  
Exelon Corp.  
Cornerstone II at Cantera  
4300 Winfield Rd.  
Warrenville, IL 60555-4012

Al Wrape, Executive Chairman  
BWRVIP Assessment Committee  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
2 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Allentown, PA 18101-1139

Rick Libra, BWRVIP Executive Oversight Committee  
DTE Energy  
Fermi Nuclear Plant (M/S 280 OBA)  
6400 N. Dixie Highway  
Newport, MI 48166-9726

Robin Dyle, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Integration Committee  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
42 Inverness Center Parkway (M/S B234)  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809

Denver Atwood, Technical Chairman  
BWRVIP Repair Focus Group  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
Post Office Box 1295  
40 Inverness Center Parkway (M/S B031)  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809

Charles J. Wirtz, Chairman  
BWRVIP Inspection Focus Group  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
Perry Nuclear Power Plant (M/S A250)  
10 Center Road  
Perry, OH 44081

Robert Carter, EPRI BWRVIP  
Assessment Manager  
Jeff Landrum, EPRI BWRVIP  
Inspection Manager  
EPRI NDE Center  
P.O. Box 217097  
1300 W. T. Harris Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28221

H. Lewis Sumner, Executive Chairman  
BWRVIP Mitigation Committee  
Vice President, Hatch Project  
Southern Nuclear Operating Co.  
M/S BIN B051, P.O. BOX 1295  
40 Inverness Center Parkway  
Birmingham, AL 35242-4809