

May 31, 2006
GO2-06-082

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

10 CFR 50.55a

Subject: **COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION, DOCKET NO. 50-397
NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION FROM BOILING WATER REACTOR
VESSEL INTERNALS PROJECT (BWRVIP) PROGRAM ELEMENT**

Reference: Letter dated May 30, 1997, Carl Terry (Chairman, BWRVIP) to Brian Sheron (NRC), "BWR Utility Commitments to the BWRVIP"

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to notify the NRC of a deviation from a BWRVIP program element. This is a notification only and no action from the NRC is being requested. This notification is provided in accordance with the goals, objectives, and products of the agreements between the BWRVIP organization and the NRC described in the referenced letter.

The deviation is from a "needed" element of the BWRVIP program. The needed element is performing inspections in accordance with BWRVIP-03 "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Reactor Pressure Vessel and Internals Examination Guidelines," and the specific guidelines found in BWRVIP-18-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines."

During the spring 2005 refueling outage, reactor pressure vessel in-vessel visual inspections examined approximately 360 components from the BWRVIP program. A detailed critical review of the (recorded on DVD) examinations was performed after the outage to assess examination quality. Of the 360 components examined, 5 were found to have portions of the examination that deviate from the BWRVIP-03 and BWRVIP-18-A guidelines. These components are identified in the table below along with the examination that was performed.

ADD 1

**NOTIFICATION OF DEVIATION FROM BOILING WATER REACTOR VESSEL
INTERNALS PROJECT (BWRVIP) PROGRAM ELEMENT**

Page 2

| BWRVIP Document | Components Identification | Description | BWRVIP Examination Criteria | Columbia Examination Performed |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| BWRVIP-18 Core Spray | AS1-008 | Lower Sparger A T-Box Cover Plate Weld | EVT-1 (1/2 mil resolution) | EVT-1 except <10% VT-1 (1 mil resolution) |
| BWRVIP-18 Core Spray | AS2-007 | Lower Sparger A Pipe to T-Box Weld | EVT-1 (1/2 mil resolution) | Should have been closer. <10% VT-1 (1 mil resolution) |
| BWRVIP-18 Core Spray | DS4-271 | Upper Sparger D End Cap to Sparger | EVT-1 (1/2 mil resolution) | EVT-1 except ~20% VT-1 (1 mil resolution) |
| BWRVIP-18 Core Spray | CS4-269 | Upper Sparger C End Cap to Sparger | EVT-1 (1/2 mil resolution) | EVT-1 except <10% VT-1 (1 mil resolution) |
| BWRVIP-18 Core Spray | BS4-269 | Lower Sparger B End Cap to Sparger | EVT-1 (1/2 mil resolution) | EVT-1 except ~15% VT-1 (1 mil resolution) |

The subject welds have been examined during the first 14 refueling outages since plant startup to a 1 mil resolution with no degradation detected. They were examined in R-15 and R-16 to a 1/2 mil resolution with the same result. The welds will be inspected to BWRVIP-03 and BWRVIP-18-A guidelines (using the 1/2 mil resolution) during the next refuel outage (R-18) in spring 2007.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. GV Cullen, Licensing Supervisor, at (509) 377-6105.

Respectfully,



DW Coleman
Manager, Regulatory Programs
Mail Drop PE20

cc: BS Mallett – NRC RIV
BJ Benney – NRC NRR
M Khanna – NRC BWRVIP Project Manager
NRC Senior Resident Inspector/988C
RN Sherman – BPA/1399
WA Horin – Winston & Strawn