

2006-333 \_\_\_\_\_ BWR Vessel & Internals Project (BWRVIP)

July 12, 2006

Document Control Desk  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Attention: Meena Khanna

Subject: Project No. 704 – BWRVIP Response to NRC Request for Additional Information  
on BWRVIP-104

- References:
1. Letter from Stephanie Coffin (NRC) to Bill Eaton (BWRVIP Chairman),  
“Request for Additional Information – Review of BWR Vessel and Internals  
Project Report, BWRVIP-104, Evaluation and Recommendations to Address  
Shroud Support Cracking in BWRs,” dated March 29, 2004.
  2. Letter from Carl Terry (BWRVIP Chairman) to Document Control Desk  
(NRC), “Project No. 704 – Transmittal of BWRVIP-104: BWR Vessel and  
Internals Project, Evaluation and Recommendations to Address Shroud Support  
Cracking in BWRs,” dated September 24, 2002.

Enclosed are five (5) copies of the BWRVIP response to the NRC Request for Additional  
Information (RAI) on the BWRVIP report entitled “BWRVIP-104: BWR Vessel and Internals  
Project, Evaluation and Recommendations to Address Shroud Support Cracking in BWRs,” that  
was transmitted to the BWRVIP by the Reference 1 letter identified above.

Please note that the response to RAI-4 states that BWRVIP will withdraw BWRVIP-104 in its  
entirety and reinstitute the inspection guidance published in BWRVIP-38 for examination of the  
shroud support welds. This change in position is based on a revised analytical evaluation of  
cracking in the H9 weld, results of inspections performed to date and level of complexity to  
inspect the Alloy 182 weld of H9.

The updated analytical evaluation is included as Attachment A to this RAI response. The results  
of the updated analysis show that postulated transverse and circumferential cracking in H9 will  
not reach a critical size in the RPV shell for a period of 60 years. The updated analysis and the  
BWRVIP-38 report confirms large flaw tolerance both from the viewpoint of shroud support  
load carrying capability and structural integrity of the vessel even considering crack growth into  
the vessel wall.

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*4 Encls forwarded  
to: Meena Khanna  
7/14/06*

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The enclosed document contains proprietary information. Therefore, the request to withhold the BWRVIP-104 report from public disclosure that was transmitted to the NRC by the Reference 2 letter identified above also applies to the enclosed document.

If you have any questions on this subject please contact George Inch (Constellation Energy Group, BWRVIP Assessment Committee Technical Chairman) by telephone at 315.349.2441 or by e-mail at [george.inch@constellation.com](mailto:george.inch@constellation.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "A".

William A. Eaton  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project