

August 2, 2006

Mr. James H. Riley, Director
Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF MATERIALS RELIABILITY PROGRAM:
TECHNICAL BASIS FOR PREEMPTIVE WELD OVERLAYS FOR
ALLOY 82/182 BUTT WELDS IN PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS
(MRP-169) (TAC NO. MC9779)

Dear Mr. Riley:

By letter dated September 7, 2005, the Nuclear Energy Institute submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Electric Power Research Institute Topical Report (TR) MRP-169, "Technical Basis for Preemptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in PWRs [pressurized water reactors]." The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of the MRP-169. We have found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our comprehensive review. The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by August 11, 2006, and issue its draft safety evaluation by January 15, 2007, and estimates that the review will require approximately 400 staff hours including project management time. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in a telephone conference between you and the NRC staff on July 21, 2006.

In accordance with the letter dated February 6, 2006 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML060370431), the fee branch has waived the Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* fees associated with this TR review.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project Nos. 669 and 689

cc: See next page

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Nuclear Energy Institute
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Project No. 689
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