

August 2, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Safety, Region I

Victor M. McCree, Director
Division of Reactor Safety, Region II

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Reactor Safety, Region III

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
Division of Reactor Safety, Region IV

FROM: John A. Grobe, Director **/RA/**
Division of Component Integrity
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: REGION PARTICIPATION AT NINTH NRC/ASME SYMPOSIUM ON
VALVES, PUMPS, AND INSERVICE TESTING, JULY 17-19, 2006

On July 17 to 19, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) jointly sponsored the Ninth NRC/ASME Symposium on Valves, Pumps, and Inservice Testing in Washington, DC. This Symposium is conducted every 2 years to provide a forum for exchanging information on technical, programmatic, and regulatory issues associated with inservice testing programs at nuclear power plants, including the design, operation, and testing of valves and pumps. The symposium provides an opportunity to discuss improvements in design, operation, and testing of valves and pumps that help to ensure their reliable performance.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing your staff to participate in the Ninth NRC/ASME Symposium on Valves, Pumps, and Inservice Testing. I particularly appreciate the presentation by Mr. Julio Lara on the pump air entrainment issue during the NRC regulatory session. The participation of NRC Region staff through presentations and their attendance was significant in helping to make the Symposium a success. The Regions' participation emphasized the coordination between Headquarters and Region staff in addressing pump and valve issues, and the review of inservice testing programs at nuclear power plants.

Attached for your information is a copy of my presentation at the opening session of the Symposium. The technical papers for the Symposium are being prepared as a NUREG document that should be issued in August. Additional information regarding the Symposium can be found through the NRC website under Public Involvement/Conferences and Symposia.

Enclosure: As stated

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