

May 9, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO: Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Sheldon D. Stuchell, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF APRIL 23, 2013, PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING
VOLUMETRIC EXAMINATION OF BOTTOM MOUNTED J-GROOVE
WELDED NOZZLES

On April 23, 2013, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a public meeting to have technical discussions and an information exchange related to volumetric examination of bottom mounted J-groove welded nozzles on operating power reactors. There were 15 NRC staff in attendance, representing the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Research, and New Reactors. There were 22 representatives from industry, and no public stakeholders.

The goal was for the NRC staff to obtain feedback from interested technical parties on volumetric examination of bottom-mounted nozzles (BMN). The NRC staff opened the meeting with an overview of potential concerns with current inspections of BMNs and the desire to learn more from industry research and operating experience relevant to BMN inspections.

Industry presented the background that was developed to support the conclusions of MRP-167 and MRP-206. MRP-206 recommends 3 options for examination of the BMNs, which include bare metal visual examinations every third refueling outage for 18-month fuel cycle plants and every other outage for 24-month fuel cycle plants, or bare metal visual examinations every other outage, or volumetric examinations combined with supplemental visual examinations. Performing bare metal inspections every other outage mimics the requirements set forth in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The industry provided a probabilistic analysis in demonstration of the safety provided by bare metal visual inspections and their position on why those requirements are risk neutral when compared to a regimen which includes volumetric and visual examinations. The NRC indicated that the probabilistic approach does not satisfy the deterministic requirement of the Technical Specifications for licensees that prohibits operation when reactor coolant pressure boundary leakage is detected.

During the presentation, the NRC staff requested the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) provide some of the proprietary information referenced during the discussions. No conclusions or commitments were made. There were no licensee-specific discussions of regulatory issues.

Project No. 669

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

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DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	BHardies	TLupold	ACsontos	SRosenberg	AMendiola
SStuchell	DBaxley	RidsNrrLA	RidsNrrDprPlpb	RidsNrrDe	RidsNrrDe
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OFFICE	PLPB/PM	PLPB/LA	SNPB/BC	PLPB/BC	PLPB/PM
NAME	SStuchell	DBaxley	BHardies	AMendiola	SStuchell
DATE	04/29/2013	05/02/2013	04/30/2013	05/08/2013	05/09/2013

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List of Attendees

**Public meeting between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff
and industry representatives to discuss volumetric examination
of bottom mounted J-groove welded nozzles**

April 23, 2013

NRC:	
David Alley	Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Jay Collins	NRR
Al Csontos	Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES)
Stephen Cumblidge	NRR
Bob Hardies	NRR
Josh Kusnick	RES
Tim Lupold	NRR
Carol Nove	RES
Iouri Prokofiev	RES
Eric Reichelt	Office of New Reactors
Stacey Rosenberg	NRR
David Rudland	RES
Sheldon Stuchell	NRR
Rob Tregoning	RES
Dan Widrevitz	NRR
External Stakeholders:	
Lawrence Corr	Westinghouse Electric Company
Anne Demma	Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
Rachel Doss	Duke Energy
Robin Dyle	EPRI
Kevin Hacker	Dominion
Craig Harrington	EPRI
Suzuki Harutaka*	MHI
Ryan Jones	Dominion Engineering
Carl Larsen*	INPO
Michael Lashley	Structural Integrity
Heather Malikowski	Exelon
Dan Nowakowski	Florida Power & Light
Tony Papso*	Aquilex WSI
Jim Puzan*	Aquilex WSI
Bernie Rudell	CENG
William Sims	Entergy
Jack Spanner	EPRI
Paul Sullivan*	Structural Integrity
Ronnie Swain	EPRI
Tim Wells	Southern Nuclear
David Whitaker	Duke Energy
Glenn White	Dominion Engineering

*Participated via telephone conferencing

ENCLOSURE