

A-45

Iyengar, Raj

From: Csontos, Aladar
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 2:37 PM
To: Hardies, Robert
Subject: FW: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

Looking better.

From: Sangimino, Donna-Marie
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 2:36 PM
To: Sheron, Brian; Richards, Stuart; Uhle, Jennifer
Cc: Case, Michael; Eisenberg, Wendy; Csontos, Aladar
Subject: RE: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

Brian,

I spoke with OIP and they do believe our participation on these WGs is in the best interest of the US Government.

NRR is paying for their travel and it would be expected that RES would fund RES staff travel (but OIP is paying for Mark Kirk to go to Belgium and S. Korea).

Donna-Marie

From: Sheron, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:52 PM
To: Sangimino, Donna-Marie; Richards, Stuart; Uhle, Jennifer
Cc: Case, Michael; Eisenberg, Wendy; Csontos, Aladar
Subject: RE: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

Thanks. I will await the OIP response.

From: Sangimino, Donna-Marie
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Sheron, Brian; Richards, Stuart; Uhle, Jennifer
Cc: Case, Michael; Eisenberg, Wendy; Csontos, Aladar
Subject: RE: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

Brian,

I called OIP after Al and I spoke Monday about all the particulars of this potential visit and asked the questions you noted below. They are currently considering the request and said they'd get back to us this week.

Donna-Marie

From: Sheron, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:28 PM
To: Richards, Stuart; Uhle, Jennifer
Cc: Case, Michael; Sangimino, Donna-Marie; Eisenberg, Wendy; Csontos, Aladar
Subject: RE: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

- a.) Have we coordinated with OIP and do they believe our participation on these WGs is in the best interest of the US Government?
- b.) Is FANC, OIP, or NRR paying for the travel? If not, why not?

From: Richards, Stuart

Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 8:15 AM

To: Sheron, Brian; Uhle, Jennifer

Cc: Case, Michael; Sangimino, Donna-Marie; Eisenberg, Wendy; Csontos, Aladar

Subject: Request for Approval of Foreign Travel to attend Doel Technical Work Groups

Brian/Jennifer

As you know, the Belgian regulator, FANC, requested technical assistance from the NRC with regards to the Doel Unit 3 RPV NDE indications. NRR/DE subsequently sent us a research assistance request to provide assistance to assess the implications of the Doel Unit 3 indications to domestic RPV's. There are about 10 US plants with RPV's which were fabricated by the same European shop that fabricated the Doel RPV.

NRR requested technical assistance in the areas of both NDE and fracture mechanics.

As part of their effort FANC wants to set up the following three working groups:

- 1) Working group #1: NDE techniques
- 2) Working group #2: Metallurgical origin/root causes of the flaw indications
- 3) Working group #3: Structural mechanics & fracture mechanics

FANC proposes to have the working groups meet in mid-October. The purpose of the Working Group meetings is to provide technical assistance to the Belgian nuclear safety authorities (FANC, Bel V, AIB Vinçotte) on specific topics / questions related to the Doel 3 RPV issue and to share information and experience between nuclear safety authorities on similar issues. The participants in the three expert working groups will be composed of members proposed by several foreign nuclear safety authorities or related organizations.

NRR is planning to send Bob Hardies and Jeff Poehler for Working Group #2. NRR is asking RES to support Working Groups 1 and 3.

With your approval, we would send Carol Nove for the NDE Working Group and Gary Stevens for the structural mechanics Working Group.

Note that Mark Kirk is also committed to serve on a separate International Review Board, which is independent of the FANC Working Groups.

The safety value to the NRC is to gain access to detailed technical information about the flaws at Doel, and the related fabrication information. In that the same or similar problems could potentially exist at some US plants, the knowledge gained by our participation will likely be very valuable in assessing the applicability of this safety issue to US plants, and in determining the appropriate regulatory actions needed to address the issue, should it be necessary.

Thanks
Stu