

August 27, 2014

Dennis Madison
Southern Nuclear
Chairman, BWR Vessel and Internals Project
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
TOPICAL REPORT "APPENDIX A, BWRVIP [BOILING WATER REACTOR
VESSEL AND INTERNALS PROJECT]-241, PROBABILISTIC FRACTURE
MECHANICS EVALUATION FOR THE BOILING WATER REACTOR NOZZLE-
TO-VESSEL SHELL WELDS AND NOZZLE BLEND RADII" (TAC NO. MF4282)

Dear Mr. Madison:

By letter dated October 10, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12290A017), the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR) Appendix A, BWRVIP-241, "Probabilistic Fracture Mechanics Evaluation For The Boiling Water Reactor Nozzle-To-Vessel Shell Welds And Nozzle Blend Radii." The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of the BWRVIP-241, Appendix A. We have found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our review.

The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by April 1, 2015, and issue its draft safety evaluation by February 10, 2016. This schedule information takes in consideration the NRC's current review priorities and available technical resources and may be subject to change. If modifications to these dates are deemed necessary, we will provide appropriate updates to this information. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 200 staff hours including project management. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in an August 14, 2014, telephone conference between representatives of EPRI and the NRC staff on July 29, 2014.

Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee waiver; therefore, NRC staff hours will be billed accordingly.

As with all TRs, the SE will be reviewed by the NRC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). During the course of this review, OGC considers whether any endorsement or acceptance of a TR by the NRC amounts to a rule as defined in the CRA. If this initial review concludes that the SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC will forward the package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and consideration. Any review by OMB would impact the schedule for the final issuance of the SE.

D. Madison

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If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Joseph Holonich at 301-415-7297.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Project No. 704

D. Madison

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If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Joseph Holonich at 301-415-7297.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Project No. 704

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NAME	JHolonich	DHarrison	DMoray	AMendiola
DATE	08/12/2014	08/12/2014	08/26/2014	08/27/2014

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