June 1, 2015

Anne Demma
MRP Program Manager
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORTS ON EVALUATION OF BRANCH TECHNICAL POSITION 5-3 PROCEDURES, ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACT ON REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL INTEGRITY, AND EVALUATION OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC PROCEDURE

Dear Ms. Demma:

A public meeting was held on February 19, 2015, at Rockville, Maryland, between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and the industry. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and discuss a variety of Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) issues.

One area of discussion was the potential non-conservatism associated with using Branch Technical Position (BTP) 5-3 in Standard Review Plan, NUREG-0800, to determine the initial nil-ductility transition temperature (RT_{NDT}) values for RPV plate and forging materials. This issue was raised in January 2014 by AREVA NP, Inc. and affects 19 pressurized water reactors and a number of boiling water reactors.

These 19 RPVs were designed and constructed using the American Society of Mechanical Engineers *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (ASME Code) older than 1973. That ASME Code did not require complete test data to determine initial RT_{NDT} values in accordance with the later editions of ASME Code, Section III, NB-2331. Several presentations in the meeting were on this issue, which summarized the NRC staff and industry effort to date in characterizing, quantifying, and assessing the impact of this issue on operating plants.

The NRC staff is in the process of revising BTP 5-3 and considers the reports underlying the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) presentation, “MRP/BWRVIP Evaluation of BTP 5-3,” useful in determining appropriate regulatory actions associated with this BTP revision. The three topics of the EPRI presentation were: 1) Evaluation of BTP 5-3 Procedures; 2) Assessment of Potential Impact on RPV Integrity; and 3) Evaluation of the GE Procedure. Therefore, the NRC requests EPRI to provide the reports to the NRC staff to assist in revising BTP 5-3.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 301-415-7297 or Joseph.Holonich@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Tim Hardin
Technical Assistant
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304
thardin@epri.com

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