



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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December 5, 2016

Mr. Andrew McGehee
BWRVIP Program Manager
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

Mr. Charles R. Pierce
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295, Bin B038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NO. 1 – REQUEST FOR
EXTENSION OF DATE TO SUBMIT REACTOR VESSEL SURVEILLANCE
CAPSULE SUMMARY TECHNICAL REPORT (CAC NO. MF7696)

Dear Messrs. McGehee and Pierce:

By letter dated May 5, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16132A080), the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Vessel & Internals Project (BWRVIP) requested an extension in the reporting date for the results from the testing of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Unit No. 1, 300 degree surveillance capsule as part of the BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP), in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix H, "Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance Program Requirements." Specifically, the extension would revise the submittal date from February 13, 2017, to August 31, 2017, to accommodate the BWRVIP committee review and approval process. The BWRVIP-requested extension date is 1 year and 6 months after the date of capsule withdrawal. The regulation at 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H, Section IV.A, states that the summary technical report must be submitted within 1 year of the date of capsule withdrawal, unless an extension is granted.

Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Report BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A, "Updated BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Implementation Plan" (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML131760082), provides guidance for the establishment of an acceptable alternative to all existing BWR plant-specific reactor pressure vessel surveillance programs for the purpose of maintaining compliance with the requirements of Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 through the end of current facility 40-year and/or 60-year extended operating licenses.

As indicated in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) safety evaluation dated February 1, 2002 (ADAMS Accession No. ML020380691), which was incorporated into BWRVIP-86-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Updated BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Implementation Program" (ADAMS Accession No. ML023190487):

The BWRVIP shall submit any changes regarding the ISP testing matrix, withdrawal schedule, or testing and reporting of individual capsule results to the NRC for review and approval prior to implementing these changes. Further, the BWRVIP will perform testing and submit surveillance capsule reports to the NRC in accordance with the provisions found in Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 on behalf of BWR licensees.

Amendment No. 237 (ADAMS Accession No. ML030690457), dated March 10, 2003, permitted the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Unit No. 1, to modify the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report to allow the use of the BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A, for demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H.

The HNP, Unit No. 1, 300-degree surveillance capsule was withdrawn from the reactor on February 13, 2016, in accordance with the BWR ISP withdrawal schedule documented in BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A. As part of an integrated surveillance program, the BWR ISP capsule reports go through the BWRVIP's committee review process. This review process adds a minimum of 2 to 3 months to the timeline for the completion and publication of the surveillance capsule summary technical report.

The submittal, dated May 5, 2016, identified the current effective full-power years (EFPYs) and whether the target material would be affected by the availability of the capsule report. For HNP, Unit No. 1, Amendment No. 277 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16062A099), dated March 23, 2016, included pressure-temperature (P-T) limits curves for 38 and 49.3 EFPYs of operation. The current EFPY is approximately 34.2; therefore, the curves will remain valid until the capsule report can be reviewed, ensuring that adequate margins of safety exist for material fracture toughness of the HNP, Unit No. 1, reactor vessel. Additionally, the plate and weld material surveillance data will not be directly used for any other reactor's P-T limit curves.

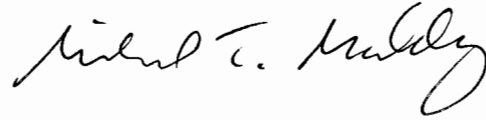
The approved P-T limit curves will remain valid until the capsule report can be reviewed. Thus, the 6-month delay does not challenge the P-T margins of safety, nor does it delay the ability to determine embrittlement for other reactors in the ISP. The NRC staff concludes that extending the reporting of the results from the ISP surveillance capsule will not change the overall effectiveness of the ISP, nor will it affect the continued safe operation of HNP, Unit No. 1. Accordingly, the extension for HNP, Unit No. 1, until August 31, 2017, is acceptable.

A. McGehee and C. Pierce

- 3 -

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Orenak at (301) 415-3229 or Michael.Orenak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Markley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Markley" clearly distinguishable.

Michael T. Markley, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-321

cc: Distribution via Listserv

A. McGehee and C. Pierce

- 3 -

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Orenak at (301) 415-3229 or Michael.Orenak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael T. Markley, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-321

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*by memorandum

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