

December 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Dennis C. Morey, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Licensing Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Joseph J. Holonich, Senior Project Manager /*RA Serita Sanders Acting for*/
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Division of Licensing Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 5 2017, CONFERENCE CALL TO DISCUSS
CLARIFICATION OF MRP-227, REVISION 1 REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 5

On October 5, 2017, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a conference call with representatives from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss clarification of the Request for Additional Information (RAI) 5 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17079A027) on Topical Report MRP-227, Revision 1, "Materials Reliability Program: Pressurized Water Reactor Internals Inspection and Evaluations Guideline." (ADAMS Accession No.: ML15358A046). All information related to the meeting and discussed in this summary can be found in the ADAMS package Accession No.: ML17164A004.

EPRI provided a presentation with additional information on RAI 5, which is related to the proposed reduction in examination coverage for core barrel welds in Westinghouse and Combustion Engineering design reactor vessel internals. Throughout the presentation, the NRC staff asked additional questions and obtained more information from EPRI.

As a result of the exchange, the NRC staff concluded that the information provided by EPRI in the presentation would help address the in question. The NRC staff emphasized that the discussion on functional evaluation in the presentation was an important part of making the case in responding to RAI 5. Therefore, the NRC staff suggested to EPRI that the functional evaluation case be as strong as possible in the formal RAI response.

Because of additional time available in the call, EPRI discussed several other RAIs that were not covered in the September 6, 2017 meeting on MRP-227, Revision 1 RAIs (ADAMS Accession No.: ML17206A334).

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The results of these additional discussions were as follows:

RAI 8: The NRC staff had no further concerns.

RAI 10: The NRC staff stated that EPRI had reasonably satisfied the concern.

RAI 26: NRC staff still has concerns about reclassification of the lower flange weld and upper girth weld to "expansion," because EPRI's justification for the reclassification is based on the "primary" component, the upper flange weld, having higher operating stresses. However, the NRC staff noted that operating stresses are small relative to residual stresses, so there may not be that much difference in stress, and all three welds have the same failure consequence. The NRC staff is also uncomfortable with the expansion examination of the upper axial welds being a "secondary" expansion.

RAI 26: The NRC staff stated that it was still uncomfortable with reclassifying girth welds as expansion. Because of that, the NRC staff recommended that EPRI provide more justification than that discussed in the presentation and on the call.

Following the technical discussions, EPRI stated that for the RAIs discussed during the September 6, 2017, meeting, it planned to provide the formal responses shortly. For the RAIs discussed in this conference call, EPRI stated that the formal responses would be submitted later. EPRI could not provide a date for the submittals until it had completed its internal processes.

D. Morey

- 3 -

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