



Integrated Nuclear Services

October 18, 1996
ESC-96-564

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. J. L. Birmingham

Subject: Status of Long-Term Boron Control Documentation

Gentlemen:

On July 9, 1996, the Regulatory Response Group of the B&W Owners Group met with the NRC Staff to address long-term boron control methods following a postulated Small Break LOCA (SBLOCA) event on the B&W-designed plants. The NRC concern with long-term boron control was initiated when an NRC Resident Inspector noted an inconsistency in documentation wherein a plant-specific procedure eliminated the time requirements for initiation of an active method of boron control.

A presentation was made summarizing the SBLOCA evaluations made that had been based on Large Break LOCA (LBLOCA) work performed in 1992. Additional calculations and evaluations performed for SBLOCA in preparation for the meeting were presented. These calculations provided boron concentrations vs. time for all considered breaks with, and without, credit for the opening of reactor vessel internals hot leg gaps. Gaps were shown to be effective for limiting and reducing long-term boron concentration.

The RRG of the B&W Owners Group committed to complete and document the calculations performed as the basis for the presentation material and to submit a summary to the NRC. These calculations are currently being performed and have not resulted in any conclusions that would contradict the material presented in the meeting. Progress on completion of the documentation has been delayed due to the need to provide responses to requests for additional information on the BWNT LOCA Evaluation Model (BAW-10192), which is the analytical model used for the SBLOCA boron analyses. Issuance of the NRC Safety Evaluation Report and formal updating of the plant models for boron calculations are needed to qualify this work for licensing application. It is anticipated that documentation of the supporting calculations and a summary report will be completed and available for submittal to the NRC by February 15, 1997.

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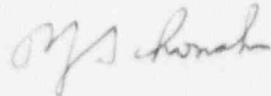
Add: J.L. Birmingham

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The B&W Owners Group RRG will inform the NRC if at any time it is concluded that material presented at the July 9, 1996 meeting cannot be supported.

If there are any questions in the interim please feel free to call the undersigned at 804-832-2917.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Schomaker
Project Manager
B&W Owners Group Management

RJS/bcc

c: B&W Owners Group Steering Committee
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