

# BWR OWNERS' GROUP

proj. 691  
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NRC Project 691  
Document Control 96-266  
NRC Bulletin 96-03

BWROG-96125  
November 20, 1996

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: *Transmittal of BWR Owners' Group Utility Resolution Guidance  
for ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage*

Attachments: (1) NEDO-32686, "Utility Resolution Guidance for ECCS Suction Strainer  
Blockage" dated November, 1996  
(2) Technical Support Documentation for Utility Resolution Guidance  
(3 Volumes)

The subject Utility Resolution Guidance (URG) for ECCS Suction Strainer Blockage and the associated Technical Support Documentation are attached for your final review and approval. This documentation has been developed to provide guidance to operators of BWRs for responding to Bulletin 96-03. The URG supplements, and in some cases provides alternatives to, guidance contained in Regulatory Guide 1.82 Revision 2.

As noted in plant specific submittals to the NRC in response to Bulletin 96-03, many operators of BWRs are planning to use the URG methodology to establish design criteria for strainer debris loadings. Timely NRC approval of key URG positions on a generic basis is requested to support schedules for design and implementation of plant specific resolutions to the issues raised in Bulletin 96-03.

The URG is supplemented by three volumes of supporting technical documentation. The documents in these volumes contain the results of BWROG analyses and testing which support the evaluation methodology described in the URG. In some instances, these support documents contain the calculational methodology to be used in evaluation of strainer performance. The URG directs the user to the appropriate section in the technical support documents, when needed, to complete the evaluation.

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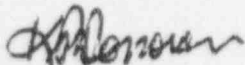
Revision bars in the document margins have been employed to highlight additions and text editing changes from the draft URG and draft Technical Support Documents which were transmitted to the NRC on October 7, 1996. Note that URG Section 3.2.3 "Drywell Debris Transport" and the associated Technical Support Document (URG Reference 5) were not included in the earlier transmittal. This information was, however, discussed with the NRC in a public meeting on October 16, 1996. Except for the addition of URG Reference 5, Reference 34 (NRC Bulletin 95-02), and Reference 35 (NRC Information Notice 96-59); the only changes to the Technical Support Document package are in Appendix A and B of the Alternate Strainer Test Report (URG Reference 3) and the inclusion of an omitted page (Reference 3, page 115). These latter revisions are not significant.

The BWR Owners' Group desires to promptly answer questions and provide clarifications that may arise during the NRC staff review of the URG documentation package in order that utilities may receive the safety evaluation report at the earliest possible date. This will allow participating utilities to resolve NRC Bulletin 96-03 at the earliest opportunity.

This letter and the attached documentation have been endorsed by a substantial number of the members of the BWR Owners' Group; however, it should not be interpreted as a commitment of any individual member to the specific course of action. Each member must formally endorse the appropriate BWROG position in order for that position to become the member's position.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation, please contact Rocky Sgarro (PP&L), BWROG ECCS Suction Strainer Committee Chairman, at (610) 774-7552 or Thomas A. Green, the GE Project Manager at (408) 925-1308.

Very truly yours,



KP Donovan, Chairman  
BWR Owners' Group

Attachments

cc: BWROG ECCS Suction Strainer Committee  
C Terry, Chairman BWROG Executive Committee  
TJ Rausch, Vice Chairman BWROG  
SJ Stark, GE  
RB Elliott, NRC  
JH Wilson, NRC (w/o attachments)  
M Marshall, NRC  
A Serkiz, NRC  
R Lobel, NRC  
D Lynch, NRC  
K Kavanaugh, NRC  
DV Rao, SEA (2 copies)