

*Ref. Docket Number 99902021*

April 28, 2021

Michael F. Faman  
Document Control Desk  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Request for Withholding of the following Proprietary Document:  
Susceptibility of Valve Applications to Failure of the Stem-to-Disk  
Connection – EPRI Report 3002019621


To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under 10 C.F.R. §2.390(a)(4) that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") withhold from public disclosure the information identified in the enclosed Affidavit consisting of the proprietary information owned by Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. ("EPRI") identified above (the "Report"). Proprietary and non-proprietary versions of the Report and the Affidavit in support of this request are enclosed.

EPRI desires to disclose the Report in confidence to support the industry with the technical basis to adopt ASME Code Case OMN-28 as an alternative to ISTC-3700. Sharing the report with the NRC will assist regional inspectors on reviewing licensee evaluation of a valve susceptibility using the EPRI methodology. The Report is not to be divulged to anyone outside of the NRC or to any of its contractors, nor shall any copies be made of the Report provided herein. EPRI welcomes any discussions and/or questions relating to the information enclosed.

If you have any questions about the legal aspects of this request for withholding, please do not hesitate to contact me at (704) 595-2630. Questions on the content of the Report should be directed to Nick Camilli of EPRI at (704) 595-2594.

Sincerely,

  
Attachment(s)

c: Sheldon Stuchell, NRC (sheldon.stuchell@nrc.gov)

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NRR

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## AFFIDAVIT

RE: Request for Withholding of the Following Proprietary Document:  
Susceptibility of Valve Applications to Failure of the Stem-to-Disk Connection  
– EPRI Report 3002019621

I, Steven Mark Swilley, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

I am the Senior Director and Deputy Chief Nuclear Officer at Electric Power Research Institute, Inc. whose principal office is located at 3420 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, California ("EPRI") and I have been specifically delegated responsibility for the above-listed Report that is sought under this Affidavit to be withheld (the "Report"). I am authorized to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") for the withholding of the Report on behalf of EPRI.

EPRI Proprietary Information is removed in the above referenced report and replaced with black boxes and identified accordingly. The pages with the proprietary information are also marked with the letters "TS" indicating that information is considered trade secrets in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390.

EPRI requests that the Report be withheld from the public on the following bases:

Withholding Based Upon Privileged And Confidential Trade Secrets Or Commercial Or Financial Information (see e.g. 10 C.F.R. §2.390(a)(4)):

a. The Report is owned by EPRI and has been held in confidence by EPRI. All entities accepting copies of the Report do so subject to written agreements imposing an obligation upon the recipient to maintain the confidentiality of the Report. The Report is disclosed only to parties who agree, in writing, to preserve the confidentiality thereof.

b. EPRI considers the Report and the proprietary information contained therein (the "Proprietary Information") to constitute trade secrets of EPRI. As such, EPRI holds the Report in confidence and disclosure thereof is strictly limited to individuals and entities who have agreed, in writing, to maintain the confidentiality of the Report. EPRI made a substantial economic investment to develop the Report, and, by prohibiting public disclosure, EPRI derives an economic benefit in the form of licensing royalties and other additional fees from the confidential nature of the Report. If the Report and the Proprietary Information were publicly available to consultants and/or other businesses providing services in the electric and/or nuclear power industry, they would be able to use the Report for their own commercial benefit and profit and without expending the substantial economic resources required of EPRI to develop the Report.

c. EPRI's classification of the Report and the Proprietary Information as trade secrets is justified by the Uniform Trade Secrets Act which California adopted in 1984 and a version of which has been adopted by over forty states. The California Uniform Trade Secrets Act, California Civil Code §§3426 – 3426.11, defines a "trade secret" as follows:

"Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program device, method, technique, or process, that:

- (1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and
- (2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy."

d. The Report and the Proprietary Information contained therein are not generally known or available to the public. EPRI developed the Report only after making a determination that the Proprietary Information was not available from public sources. EPRI made a substantial investment of both money and employee hours in the development of the Report. EPRI was required to devote these resources and effort to derive the Proprietary Information and the Report. As a result of such effort and cost, both in terms of dollars spent and dedicated employee time, the Report is highly valuable to EPRI.

e. A public disclosure of the Proprietary Information would be highly likely to cause substantial harm to EPRI's competitive position and the ability of EPRI to license the Proprietary Information both domestically and internationally. The Proprietary Information and Report can only be acquired and/or duplicated by others using an equivalent investment of time and effort.

I have read the foregoing and the matters stated herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I make this affidavit under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Executed at 1300 W WT Harris Blvd, Charlotte, NC being the premises and place of business of Electric Power Research Institute, Inc.

Date: April 28, 2021

Steven Mark Swilley  
Steven Mark Swilley

(State of North Carolina)  
(County of Mecklenburg)

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021 by Steven Mark Swilley, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature Deborah H. Rouse (Seal)

My Commission Expires 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2026

