

September 10, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Tanya M. Mensah, Senior Project Manager */RAI*  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 23, 2007, CATEGORY 2 PUBLIC MEETING WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI): PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING FOR REVIEW OF MATERIAL RELIABILITY PROGRAM (MRP): TECHNICAL BASIS FOR PREEMPTIVE WELD OVERLAYS FOR ALLOY 82/182 BUTT WELDS IN PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS (MRP-169) (TAC MD6391)

On August 23, 2007, a Category 2 public meeting was held between the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and industry representatives at the NRC headquarters in Rockville, MD. A list of attendees is enclosed. The purpose of this meeting was for industry representatives to discuss its plans with the NRC staff to re-submit Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Topical Report (TR) MRP-169, "Technical Basis for Preemptive Weld Overlays for Alloy 82/182 Butt Welds in PWRs [Pressurized Water Reactors]" for NRC staff review.

By letter dated September 7, 2005 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML052520325), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submitted for NRC staff review TR MRP-169. In a letter dated August 3, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML062050337), the NRC staff issued a request for additional information (RAI). RAI responses were not provided to the NRC because industry resources on TR MRP-169 were diverted to address an emergent technical issue regarding pressurizer nozzle dissimilar metal welds. By letter dated April 26, 2007, the NRC discontinued its review of TR MRP-169 (ADAMS Accession No. ML071130113). To discuss the process to reinstate the NRC staff's review, the NEI requested a pre-submittal meeting.

The presentation to the NRC staff included:

- A historical perspective of commercial boiling water reactor and PWR weld overlay experience.
- A description of weld overlay designs, inspections, research, and applicable industry guidance documents.
- An overview of the purpose and scope of MRP-169.
- A proposed NRC staff review schedule.
- A discussion of the proposed responses to the NRC staff's RAI.

During the meeting, the industry representatives emphasized that they were still seeking NRC review and approval of TR MRP-169 (even though parallel American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code actions are in progress) because TR MRP-169 includes more technical detail than typically included in code cases and includes requirements and technical bases outside of normal ASME Code purview. To support potential fall 2008 reactor pressure vessel nozzle applications (relief requests), the industry representatives are seeking NRC staff review and approval of TR MRP-169 by March 2008.

During the presentation of the proposed RAI responses, the NRC staff asked a number of questions and provided recommendations to ensure that the RAI responses completely address the NRC staff's concerns. Since industry has not completed the qualification of examination methods for optimized weld overlays, and it appears that qualification criteria have yet to be developed, the NRC staff expressed concerns during the meeting regarding the timely completion of the NRC staff's review of TR MRP-169, Revision 1.

Industry representatives are currently planning to finalize and submit the RAI responses in early September 2007. Since TR MRP-169, Revision 1, is being finalized, it will not be submitted to the NRC staff until November 2007. Therefore, the RAI transmittal memorandum from NEI will also request that the NRC staff continue its review of TR MRP-169, Revision 0. In addition, because the scope and purpose of the TR have not changed, the original fee waiver exemption (i.e., non-fee billable) remains applicable to support the NRC staff's review of TR MRP-169.

The detailed industry presentation slides are available in ADAMS (Accession No. ML072420195).

No members of the public were in attendance. No public meeting feedback forms were received.

Project Nos. 669 and 689

Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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ADAMS Package Accession No. ML072490281

Meeting Notice Accession No. ML072150402

Meeting Handout Accession No. ML072420195

Meeting Summary Accession No. ML072420098

NRC-001

OFFICE	PSPB/PM	PSPB/LA	DCI/BC	PSPB/BC
NAME	TMensah	DBaxley	TChan	SRosenberg
DATE	9/6 /07	9/6/07	9/10 /07	9/ 10 /07

**List of Attendees for August 23, 2007**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Bud Auvil	Structural Integrity
Terence Chan	NRC
Yeon-Ki Chung	NRC
Bob Hardies	NRC
Ken Karwoski	NRC
Christine King	EPRI
B. Lu	EPRI
Mike Melton	NEI
Tanya Mensah	NRC
Pete Riccaroella	Structural Integrity
Mark Richter	Constellation Energy
Edmund Sullivan	NRC
Dennis Weakland	FENOC/MRP
John Wilson	Exelon

ENCLOSURE

Nuclear Energy Institute  
Electric Power Research Institute

Project No. 689  
Project No. 669

cc:

Mr. Anthony Pietrangelo, Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[arp@nei.org](mailto:arp@nei.org)

Mr. Alexander Marion, Executive Director  
Nuclear Operations & Engineering  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[am@nei.org](mailto:am@nei.org)

Mr. Jack Roe, Director  
Operations Support  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[jwr@nei.org](mailto:jwr@nei.org)

Mr. Jay Thayer, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[jkt@nei.org](mailto:jkt@nei.org)

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman  
Washington Operations  
ABB-Combustion Engineering, Inc.  
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330  
Rockville, MD 20852  
[brinkmcb@westinghouse.com](mailto:brinkmcb@westinghouse.com)

Mr. John Butler, Director  
Safety-Focused Regulation  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[jcb@nei.org](mailto:jcb@nei.org)

Mr. Gary L. Vine, Executive Director  
Federal and Industry Activities, Nuclear  
Sector  
EPRI  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 805  
Washington, DC 20036  
[gvine@epri.com](mailto:gvine@epri.com)

Mr. James H. Riley, Director  
Engineering  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[jhr@nei.org](mailto:jhr@nei.org)

Mr. James Gresham, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355  
[greshaja@westinghouse.com](mailto:greshaja@westinghouse.com)

Mike Melton, Senior Project Manager  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708  
[man@nei.org](mailto:man@nei.org)

Ms. Barbara Lewis  
Assistant Editor  
Platts, Principal Editorial Office  
1200 G St., N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
[Barbara\\_lewis@platts.com](mailto:Barbara_lewis@platts.com)

Mr. David J. Modeen  
Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
EPRI  
1300 W. T. Harris Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550  
[dmodeen@epri.com](mailto:dmodeen@epri.com)

3/8/07

Mr. John Gaertner  
EPRI  
1300 W.T. Harris Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550  
[jgaertner@epri.com](mailto:jgaertner@epri.com)

Ms. Rosa Yang  
EPRI  
3412 Hillview Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1338  
[ryang@epri.com](mailto:ryang@epri.com)

Mr. Kenneth Huffman  
EPRI  
1300 W. T. Harris Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28262-8550  
[khuffman@epri.com](mailto:khuffman@epri.com)