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From: Christopher Grimes
To: Bruce Boger; Evangelos Marinos; Jared Wermiel; Jose Calvo; Stephen Alexander; Suzanne Black; Theodore Quay; Warren Lyon
Date: Fri, Nov 12, 2004 3:17 PM
Subject: UFM End Game

Attached is a summary of our meeting on Nov 3 to develop an *end-game* for the UFM issue. I'd appreciate any comments, clarifications or corrections on this summary by COB 11/17/04 (when Bruce is back). In the interim, I'll work with George to get our communications plan updated and I'll work with Greg to get the allegation responses completed.

CC: Brian Sheron; Clifford Douth; Ellis Merschoff; Gene Suh; George Dick; Ghani Zigh; Gregory Cwalina; Iqbal Ahmed; Jennifer Uhle; Jim Dyer; Michael Case; Michael Johnson; Richard Barrett; Richard Borchardt; Yuri Orechwa

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UFM End Game Meeting 11/3/04

Participants: Chris Grimes Jose Calvo Angelo Marinos
 Suzie Black Jerry Wermiel Warren Lyon
 Bruce Boger Ted Quay Steve Alexander

- ◆ While EEIB has established an appropriate evaluation basis for measurement accuracy based on instrumentation loop practices for treating uncertainties, most of the ultrasonic flow meter (UFM) accuracy controversy relates to thermohydraulic phenomena, for which SRXB has the expertise. The UFM Task Group only looked at a "snap shot" of the thermohydraulic aspects of the issue, and several of the Task Group questions were left unanswered.
- ◆ Considering the time that has lapsed in the development of a proposed bulletin and the extent of public feedback, a bulletin is not the appropriate generic communication. In order to bring closure to this issue, a generic communication requiring an affirmative response from the licensees is warranted. SRXB agreed to draft a generic letter that would simply ask licensees who rely on UFM's to measure plant power to respond with a description of the actions taken and data relied on to ensure the claimed accuracy of the measurement has been achieved.
- ◆ The priority of this issue is difficult to maintain because it is not a significant safety issue, it is a compliance issue.
- ◆ The Westinghouse 10/19/04 letter updating their commitments to reassess and validate the accuracy of Crossflow meters used for power measurements is not very useful because it does not describe the validation standards and, in addition to deferring to the utilities and/or the WOG to discuss pertinent findings of the validations, further validation work has yet to be completed. It is not clear that a formal request for additional information from Westinghouse to clarify the basis for their 10/19/04 letter is worthwhile.
- ◆ This issue needs to be resolved in a way that does not unnecessarily burden the inspection staff. Therefore, the GL needs to develop sufficient information, including the answers to the unresolved Crossflow questions, so that clear and simple guidance can be provided to the regions for any subsequent inspection verification.
- ◆ The completion of the UFM Task Group effort, which will resolve the necessary and sufficient validation basis for power level measurement accuracy, needs to clarify the impact on the basis for the SER conclusions for the UFM topicals. In this regard, the Westinghouse topical on their X-Beam Crossflow meter is pending.
- ◆ The allegation closure letters can go forward. EEIB need not concur, or can non-concur on the response to 2003-A-0007; DE will concur with comments if necessary to ensure that the response is simply factual and does not invite further technical debate or questions about NRC regulatory responsibilities.