



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 22, 2018

Mr. Andrew McGehee
BWRVIP Program Manager
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395

Mr. J.J. Hutto
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1295, Bin B038
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

**SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 – REQUEST FOR
EXTENSION OF DATE TO SUBMIT REACTOR VESSEL SURVEILLANCE
CAPSULE SUMMARY TECHNICAL REPORT (CAC NO. MF9753;
EPID L-2017-LLL-0011)**

Dear Messrs. McGehee and Hutto:

By letter dated April 19, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17111A870), the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Vessel & Internals Project (BWRVIP) requested an extension in the reporting date for the results from the testing of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Unit No. 2, 120 degree reactor vessel material surveillance capsule as part of the BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP), in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix H, "Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance Program Requirements." Specifically, the extension would revise the submittal date for the report from February 12, 2018, to August 31, 2018, to allow the BWRVIP additional time for placing contracts for performance of the testing and for the BWRVIP's committee review and approval process. The BWRVIP-requested extension date is approximately 1 year and 6 months after the date of capsule withdrawal. The regulation at 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H, Section IV.A, states that the summary technical report must be submitted within 1 year of the date of capsule withdrawal, unless an extension is granted.

Electric Power Research Institute reports BWRVIP-86-A, "BWR Vessel and Internals Project, Updated BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Implementation Program" (ADAMS Accession No. ML023190487) and BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A, "Updated BWR Integrated Surveillance Program (ISP) Implementation Plan" (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML131760082), provide guidance for the establishment of an acceptable alternative to all existing BWR plant-specific reactor pressure vessel surveillance programs for the purpose of maintaining compliance with the requirements of Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 through the end of current facility 40-year and 60-year extended operating licenses, respectively.

As indicated in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) safety evaluation dated February 1, 2002 (ADAMS Accession No. ML020380691), which was incorporated into BWRVIP-86-A:

The BWRVIP shall submit any changes regarding the ISP testing matrix, withdrawal schedule, or testing and reporting of individual capsule results to the NRC for review and approval prior to implementing these changes. Further, the BWRVIP will perform testing and submit surveillance capsule reports to the NRC in accordance with the provisions found in Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 on behalf of BWR licensees.

Amendment Nos. 237 and 179, dated March 10, 2003 (ADAMS Accession No. ML030690457), permitted the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP), Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, to modify the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report to allow the use of the BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A, for demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H.

The 120 degree surveillance capsule was withdrawn from the HNP Unit No. 2 reactor on February 12, 2017, in accordance with the BWRVIP ISP withdrawal schedule documented in BWRVIP-86, Revision 1-A. As part of an integrated surveillance program, the BWRVIP ISP capsule reports go through the BWRVIP's committee review process. This review process adds several months to the timeline for the completion and publication of the capsule summary technical report.

The BWRVIP request for extension, dated April 19, 2017, identified the current effective full-power years (EFPYs) and whether the target material would be affected by the availability of the capsule report. Amendment Nos. 277 and 221, dated March 23, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16062A099), for HNP, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, included pressure-temperature (P-T) limits curves for 38 and 49.3 EFPYs of operation for both units. The current EFPY for HNP Unit No. 2 is approximately 30.3; therefore, the approved P-T limits curves will remain valid until the capsule report can be reviewed, ensuring that adequate margins of safety exist for material fracture toughness of the HNP Unit No. 2 reactor vessel. Thus, the 6-month extension to the report submittal date does not challenge the P-T margins of safety, nor does it delay the ability to determine embrittlement for other reactors in the ISP. The NRC staff concludes that extending the reporting of the results from the ISP surveillance capsule will not change the overall effectiveness of the ISP, nor will it affect the continued safe operation of HNP Unit No. 2. Accordingly, the extension until August 31, 2018, for submittal of the HNP Unit No. 2 120 degree surveillance capsule summary technical report is acceptable.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Hall at (301) 415-4032 or Randy.Hall@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Markley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael T. Markley, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-366

cc: Listserv

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ADAMS Accession No. ML18016A025

*by memorandum

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