

November 8, 2002

Mr. Dhiaa Jamil
Vice President, McGuire Site
Duke Energy Corporation
12700 Hagers Ferry Road
Huntersville, NC 28078-8985

SUBJECT: McGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NOS 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2002-02, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD AND VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS" (TAC NOS. MB5899 AND MB5900)

Dear Mr. Jamil:

On August 9, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs." The Bulletin requested addressees to provide information related to their reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head and vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzle inspection programs for their respective facilities, including a summary discussion of inspection program plans to supplement their required visual inspections with non-visual nondestructive examination methods, or justification for reliance on visual examinations as the primary method to detect degradation. Addressees were requested to respond to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance, or within 15 days of issuance of the Bulletin provide an alternative course of action, including the basis for acceptability of the proposed action.

By letter dated September 6, 2002, Duke Power provided a response to Item 1 of the Bulletin indicating the plans to perform RPV head and VHP nozzle inspections at the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The response also indicated that the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, are in the category of plants considered to have low susceptibility to RPV head and VHP cracking, based on a susceptibility ranking of less than 8 effective degradation years.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin. The staff finds your inspection plan to perform a 100 percent bare metal visual examination during the September - October 2002 refueling outage for Unit 1 and the 100 percent bare metal visual examination conducted on March 21, 2002, for Unit 2, to be adequate for providing reasonable assurance that existing regulatory requirements are met.

The staff notes that you indicated you will provide your future inspection plans within 4 years of the date of your response to Bulletin 2002-02. You are requested to provide your future inspection plans no later than 90 days prior to the refueling outage following the Fall 2002 outage. The staff's assessment of the adequacy of your long-term inspection program will be determined upon completion of a review at that time.

Dhiaa Jamil

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Also, please note that as stated in Item 2 of the Bulletin, you are to report to the Commission your inspection scope and results within 30 days after plant restart following the inspection of the RPV head and VHP nozzles.

Please contact me at (301) 415-1493 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-369

cc: See next page

Dhiaa Jamil

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McGuire Nuclear Station

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