

March 19, 2002

Dr. Brian W. Sheron
Associate Director for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Preliminary Licensee Responses to Industry Survey Questions on PWR
Head Inspections

PROJECT NUMBER: 689

During a March 13, 2002, conference call, we indicated that the enclosed licensee responses to the Materials Reliability Program's (MRP) survey questions on PWR reactor pressure vessel closure head inspections would be provided to the NRC staff. The MRP performed this survey to assess the status of licensee actions relating to the head corrosion observed at the Davis-Besse plant.

The survey asked the following questions:

1. At your most recent inspection, did you do a sufficient visual examination over 100% of the head to have detected external surface corrosion or accumulation of boric acid crystals?
2. If the visual inspection was not 100% (or was in some way hampered), can you confidently say that you don't have external head corrosion?
3. If UT or another non-visual approach was used at your most recent inspection, was the UT examination capable of detecting corrosion of the low alloy steel head material (changes in back reflection)? Did you perform a full length UT of the RPV nozzles to the top of the head?
4. For plants with Spring 02 outages (all susceptibility 'classes'), what plans can you make/how will you show that there is not significant boric acid corrosion?

The licensee responses are provided to the NRC staff with the understanding that the information is preliminary and subject to change. We further understand that

Dr. Brian W. Sheron

March 19, 2002

Page 2

the NRC proposed bulletin on this subject might request that licensees provide supplemental information.

If you have questions, please contact Kurt Cozens at (202) 739-8085, koc@nei.org, or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Marion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alexander Marion

KOC/

Enclosure

c: Mr. Steven D. Bloom, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. William H. Bateman, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission