

November 5, 2001

Mr. Gregg R. Overbeck
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Arizona Public Service Company
P. O. Box 52034
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 -
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE SUMMARY RE: RESPONSES TO BULLETIN
2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE
VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NOS. MB2647, MB2648, AND
MB2649)

Dear Mr. Overbeck:

On August 3, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML012080284) to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. The bulletin requested a response from addressees within 30 days of issuance.

In response to Bulletin 2001-01, you provided information via letter dated September 4, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML012500225). Subsequently, a telephone conference was held on October 3, 2001. In this telephone conference, you stated that you would review your response to the bulletin and assess providing additional information regarding the schedule and scope of future vessel head penetration inspections. Additionally, a telephone conference was held on October 22, 2001. In this telephone conference you stated that you would respond to the request for clarification by the end of 2001. This information is necessary for the NRC staff to complete its review of your Bulletin 2001-01 response.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-1396, or e-mail at lrw@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. Raynard Wharton, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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