

NRC 2002-0037

10 CFR 50.54(f)

May 09, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

Docket Numbers 50-266 and 50-301  
Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Units 1 and 2  
Supplement To Response To NRC Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation And Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity"

- References:
1. NMC Letter dated April 2, 2002, "Response To NRC Bulletin 2002-01, 'Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation And Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity'"
  2. NMC Letter dated April 18, 2002, "Revised Response To NRC Bulletin 2002-01, 'Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation And Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity'"

In Reference 1, Nuclear Management Company (NMC), LLC, licensee for Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Units 1 and 2, provided the requested response to NRC Bulletin 2002-01, *Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation And Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity*.

In Reference 2, NMC provided updated information in response to the NRC Bulletin, item 1.D, based on information obtained from Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI) and discussions between Dominion Engineering, EPRI, MRP and various subject matter experts regarding reactor vessel head degradation mechanisms.

During a telephone conversation between NRC staff and NMC representatives on April 23, 2002, the NRC requested additional information in response to the NRC Bulletin, item 1.C, regarding historical canopy seal weld leaks.

Therefore, NMC is providing the following information: The leakage events that occurred on Unit 2 prior to 1990 were found during the performance of work order searches of PBNP Units 1 and 2, as well as through interviews of numerous plant personnel. These records accurately detail the components repaired (e.g., source of the leak), however, they largely do not discuss the extent of the leakage or the methods used for cleanup. Where this detail does exist, the description is limited to statements such as "all evidence of boric acid removed." No photographic evidence or reports are known to exist that would describe these events in any more detail.

More details exist for the leaks that occurred in 1990. These leaks were more significant and occurred on both units. The Unit 2 leaks were very small and occurred on the lower canopy seal weld of the middle penetration, as evidenced by a small clump of boric acid on the weld. The weld was repaired using remote weld tooling. In April 2002, an effective visual inspection of the Unit 2 reactor pressure vessel head was performed. No evidence of boric acid deposition or wastage was identified. The leaks on Unit 1 occurred on the outer row intermediate canopy seal welds, which are well above the head. As stated in References 1 and 2, the canopy seal welds were repaired, the boric acid was cleaned from the reactor vessel head area, and the reactor vessel head insulation was resealed with a waterproof sealant.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements contained in this document are true and correct. In some respects, these statements are not based entirely on my personal knowledge, but on information furnished by cognizant NMC employees and consultants. Such information has been reviewed in accordance with company practice and I believe it to be reliable.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 09, 2002.

(signature on file)

Mark E. Warner  
Site Vice President

RDS/kmd

cc: NRC Regional Administrator  
NRC Project Manager - PBNP  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - PBNP