

April 4, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard J. Laufer, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Stephen R. Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1 */RA/*
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 25, 2002, CONFERENCE CALL REGARDING
SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO
NRC BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD
DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY
INTEGRITY," FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1
(TAC NO. MB4588)

On March 25, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a telephone conference call with the staff of Southern Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) to discuss the results of the reactor vessel head inspections performed at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1, during the March 2002 refueling outage. The list of conference call participants is attached. This call was conducted as a result of the identification of recent reactor vessel head degradation as discussed in NRC Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity."

During the call, the licensee indicated they had performed a 100 percent effective visual inspection of the reactor vessel head and penetrations. An effective visual inspection is one in which small amounts of boric acid deposits from vessel head penetration nozzle leaks can be detected and discriminated. This inspection was not compromised by the presence of insulation, existing deposits on the reactor vessel head, or other factors that could interfere with the detection of leakage. A remotely operated crawling device was used to conduct the inspection. As a result of the inspection, there was no evidence of corrosion or deposits; however, there was some minor debris (loose particulate material such as metal shavings). The debris was decontaminated and the areas were re-inspected with no signs of corrosion.

With respect to the susceptibility of the vessel head penetration nozzles to cracking, Vogtle 1 is considered a low susceptibility plant based on an industry ranking scheme based on operating time and temperature as indicated in NRC Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles."

Docket No. 50-424

Attachment: As stated

April 4, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard J. Laufer, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Stephen R. Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1 */RA/*
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 25, 2002, CONFERENCE CALL REGARDING SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. MB4588)

On March 25, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a telephone conference call with the staff of Southern Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) to discuss the results of the reactor vessel head inspections performed at Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 1, during the March 2002 refueling outage. The list of conference call participants is attached. This call was conducted as a result of the identification of recent reactor vessel head degradation as discussed in NRC Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity."

During the call, the licensee indicated they had performed a 100 percent effective visual inspection of the reactor vessel head and penetrations. An effective visual inspection is one in which small amounts of boric acid deposits from vessel head penetration nozzle leaks can be detected and discriminated. This inspection was not compromised by the presence of insulation, existing deposits on the reactor vessel head, or other factors that could interfere with the detection of leakage. A remotely operated crawling device was used to conduct the inspection. As a result of the inspection, there was no evidence of corrosion or deposits; however, there was some minor debris (loose particulate material such as metal shavings). The debris was decontaminated and the areas were re-inspected with no signs of corrosion.

With respect to the susceptibility of the vessel head penetration nozzles to cracking, Vogtle 1 is considered a low susceptibility plant based on an industry ranking scheme based on operating time and temperature as indicated in NRC Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles."

Docket No. 50-424

Attachment: As stated

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RLaufer	FRinaldi
PDII-1 R/F	KKarwoski	CHawes
SBloom	AHiser	WBateman
ALee	SMonarque	

Accession Number: ML020920191

*See previous concurrence

OFFICE	PDII-1/PM	PDII-1/PM	PDII-1/LA	PM: EMCB	SC(A): PDII-1
NAME	FRinaldi	SMonarque	CHawes	SBloom*	RLaufer
DATE	4/3/02	4/3/02	4/3/02	4/2/02	4/3/02

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

CONFERENCE CALL

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NRC

Kenneth Karwoski, NRR
Steven Bloom, NRR
Stephen Monarque, NRR

REGION II

Mark Lesser
John Zeiler
Tom Morrissey

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

Tom Greene
Jim Bailey
Skip Kitchens
Jim Edwards