

February 21, 2002

Mr. J. A. Price
Vice President - Nuclear Technical Services - Millstone
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
c/o Mr. David A. Smith
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (MILLSTONE 2) -
RESPONSE TO DNC's FEBRUARY 7, 2002, SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO
BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR
PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES"

Dear Mr. Price:

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 (PWR) plants. The bulletin required a response from addressees within 30 days of issuance.

In response to Bulletin 2001-01, you provided information via letters dated September 4, 2001, December 28, 2001, and February 7, 2002. Your inspection plans were also discussed during a telephone conference on Friday, October 5, 2001, and during a public meeting on January 24, 2002.

As a follow-up to the meeting held with the NRC staff on January 24, 2002, you describe plans to perform ultrasonic testing (UT) of your reactor vessel head penetrations (RVHPs) at the next refueling outage of Millstone 2, in your letter dated February 7, 2002. This letter is consistent with the information that you presented to the staff on January 24, 2002, in that you propose to perform 100 percent volumetric inspection of the Millstone 2 RVHPs. However, you cite the possibility of UT equipment failure or some unanticipated interference due to head geometry as the basis for possibly reducing the scope of your inspection to less than 100 percent of the RVHPs, specifically a minimum of 65 out of the 78 RVHPs.

As summarized at the January 24, 2002, meeting, the staff has found that the examination equipment, technology, and methods that you proposed to utilize in your upcoming outage will provide an effective examination to ensure the public health and safety for subsequent operation of the plant. However, the staff does not agree with your statistical analysis used to justify inspecting fewer than 100 percent of the nozzles, and as stated during the January 24, 2002, meeting, the staff concludes that inspection of 100 percent of the nozzles is necessary to ensure the public health and safety for subsequent operation of the plant.

J. Price

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-3199, or e-mail jth2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John T. Harrison, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-336

cc: See next page

J. Price

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Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 2

cc:

Ms. L. M. Cuoco
Senior Nuclear Counsel
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Edward L. Wilds, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, Division of Radiation
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

First Selectmen
Town of Waterford
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Charles Brinkman, Manager
Washington Nuclear Operations
ABB Combustion Engineering
12300 Twinbrook Pkwy, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Senior Resident Inspector
Millstone Nuclear Power Station
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 513
Niantic, CT 06357

Mr. W. R. Matthews
Vice President and Senior Nuclear
Executive - Millstone
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Ernest C. Hadley, Esquire
P.O. Box 1104
West Falmouth, MA 02574-1104

Mr. P. J. Parulis
Manager - Nuclear Oversight
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. D. A. Christian
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Operations
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Innsbrook Technical Center - 2SW
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. C. J. Schwarz
Director - Nuclear Operations and Chemistry
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. John Markowicz
Co-Chair
Nuclear Energy Advisory Council
9 Susan Terrace
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. Evan W. Woollacott
Co-Chair
Nuclear Energy Advisory Council
128 Terry's Plain Road
Simsbury, CT 06070

Mr. D. A. Smith
Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Ms. Nancy Burton
147 Cross Highway
Redding Ridge, CT 00870

Millstone Nuclear Power Station
Unit 2

cc:

Mr. G. D. Hicks
Director - Nuclear Training
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Mr. J. Alan Price
Vice President - Nuclear Operations - Millstone
c/o Mr. David A. Smith
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385