

December 11, 2001

Mr. L. W. Myers
Senior Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSES FOR BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (BVPS-1 AND 2) (TAC NOS. MB2610 AND MB2611)

Dear Mr. Myers:

On August 3, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," 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. The information requested included 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. You were requested to respond to Items 1 and 4 of the bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response for BVPS-1 and 2 by letter dated August 31, 2001. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information and there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained. Your proposed inspection scope and schedule described in your response, which included the description of your plans to examine all of the VHPs at BVPS-1 during the outage scheduled in September 2001 and at BVPS-2 during the outage scheduled in February 2002, were integral to the staff's finding. It is the NRC staff's expectation that you will submit a revised response to the bulletin if you make any substantive changes to the schedule and/or scope of future inspections for your facilities. If warranted by such changes, the staff will reevaluate this issue for BVPS-1 and 2.

Item 5 of the bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

- a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

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- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

You provided your response to Item 5 of the bulletin for BVPS-1 by letter dated October 31, 2001. The NRC staff is reviewing this information and, if necessary, will contact you regarding any clarifications.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence J. Burkhart, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

cc: See next page

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- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

You provided your response to Item 5 of the bulletin for BVPS-1 by letter dated October 31, 2001. The NRC staff is reviewing this information and, if necessary, will contact you regarding any clarifications.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence J. Burkhart, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

cc: See next page

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