

December 4, 2001

Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745-9635

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: BULLETIN 2001-01,
"CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD
PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NOS. MB2619 AND MB2620)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On August 3, 2001, the 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, 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. You were requested to provide your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response by letter dated August 31, 2001. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information and that, based on this information, there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained.

You are reminded that 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; and

- 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.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chandu P. Patel, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

- 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.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chandu P. Patel, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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