

January 27, 2000

Mr. D. E. Young, Vice President
Carolina Power & Light Company
H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant,
Unit No. 2
3581 West Entrance Road
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

SUBJECT: H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2 (HBRSEP2) -
THIMBLE TUBE THINNING IN WESTINGHOUSE REACTORS - CLOSE OUT
OF TAC NO. MA4636

Dear Mr. Young:

On July 26, 1988, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued NRC Bulletin No. 88-09, "Thimble Tube Thinning in Westinghouse Reactors" requiring establishment and implementation of a thimble tube inspection program. On February 8, 1991, you provided in a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a response to the above bulletin. It confirmed that an inspection program had been established and the initial thimble tube inspection had been performed for HBRSEP2. You planned to repeat the eddy current inspection of the incore neutron monitoring system thimble tubes in every other refueling outage. In your supplemental response on the subject in your letter dated January 20, 1999, you said that this was subject to change as the knowledge pertaining to double-wall thimble tubes accumulated and if wear became evident on subsequent eddy current inspections. Since during the last three inspections covering six operating cycles, no detectable wear has been identified, you requested postponing the RFO-19 inspection to RFO-20. Staff reviewed your efforts in this area and finds your request for postponing the same to RFO-20 to be reasonable. Please keep the NRC updated on your results of the thimble tube inspection program and the results for the ensuing RFO-20.

Please be informed that your efforts on the implementation of the requirements of Bulletin No. 88-09 may be subject to NRC inspection.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ram Subbaratnam at (301) 415-1478.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ram Subbaratnam, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-261
cc: See next page

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