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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION
LICENSES NPF-14 AND NPF-22:
ALTERNATE FEEDWATER NOZZLE INSPECTION
REQUIREMENTS
PLA-5253**

**Docket Nos. 50-387
and 50-388**

The purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC of the decision by PPL Corporation (PPL) Susquehanna LLC to modify its commitment as contained in letters dated June 11, 1981 (PLA-807) and May 3, 1982 (PLA-1075). These letters committed Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 and 2 to perform periodic inspections of the feedwater nozzles in accordance with the requirements set forth in NUREG-0619, "BWR Feedwater Nozzle and Control Rod Drive Return Line Nozzle Cracking."

PPL requested an operating cycle deferral of the liquid penetrant (PT) examination requirements for the SSES Units 1 and 2 feedwater nozzle bore and inner radius by letter dated January 13, 2000. NRC approved the request by letter dated February 28, 2000, titled Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 – Deferral of Inspections Required by Section 4.3 of NUREG-0619 (TAC NOS. MA8047 and MA8048). Also included in the letter was the following statement:

Furthermore, future PT examinations of the feedwater nozzle bore and inner radii may be eliminated if PP&L continues to follow the BWROG's topical report and the criteria in the staff's safety evaluation dated June 5, 1998.

Therefore, as an alternative to the requirements of NUREG-0619, PPL will conduct future feedwater nozzle inspections using the NRC approved recommendations of Boiling Water Reactor Owner's Group (BWROG) Report GE-NE-523-A71-0594 Revision 1, "Alternate BWR Feedwater Nozzle Inspection Requirements" and Final Safety Evaluation of BWR Owner's Group Alternate Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) Feedwater Nozzle Inspection (TAC No. MA6787) dated March 10, 2000.

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The March 10, 2000 SER is based on the June 5, 1998 SER plus BWROG responses to NRC recommendations which were incorporated into GE-NE-523-A71-0594 Revision 1. Accordingly, GE-NE-523-A71-0594 Revision 1 was approved as an alternative to the inspection program recommended in NUREG – 0619 by (1.) accepting ultrasonic testing (UT) as the basis to eliminate supplemental liquid penetrant testing of the inside radius of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) nozzles; (2.) lengthening the time interval between routine UT of the inside radius of the RPV nozzles; and (3.) reducing the inspection area of the inside radius of the RPV nozzles.

The scope of GE-NE-523-A71-0594 Revision 1 did not include the nozzle to safe end welds identified as Zone 5 in early NUREG – 0619 documentation. However, the March 10, 2000 SER accepted the BWROG recommendation that Zone 5 examinations are to be conducted in accordance with the ASME Code Section XI inservice inspection (ISI) program procedures used to implement the ISI program. Therefore, future Zone 5 inspections will be done in accordance with the ASME code requirements.

Should you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. D. L. Filchner at (610) 774-7819.

Sincerely,



R. G. Byram

DLF/nl

copy: NRC Region I
Mr. S. Hansell, NRC Sr. Resident Inspector
Mr. R. G. Schaaf, NRC Project Manager