

October 16, 2001

Mr. Craig G. Anderson
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE CONFERENCE REGARDING BULLETIN 2001-01 RESPONSE
FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2 (ANO-2) (TAC MB2609)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On August 3, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 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 letter dated September 4, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML012550238). The staff reviewed the information and required clarification of your responses. Subsequently, a telephone conference was held on October 9, 2001. In this telephone conference, we stated that your commitment to perform a surface or volumetric examination of 25% of the control element drive mechanism (CEDM) penetrations during the next scheduled refueling outage at ANO-2 was not consistent with Bulletin 2001-01. We clarified that the staff's expectation for the scope of the inspection is a qualified visual examination of 100% of the CEDM penetrations (or 100% volumetric or surface examination) at the next scheduled refueling outage. The staff believes that the safety benefit of a 100% examination of the CEDM penetrations exceeds the concerns and hardships that would be incurred by removing or modifying the vessel head insulation, as discussed in your September 4, 2001, letter.

At the conclusion of this telephone conference, you indicated that you would reconsider your response to Bulletin 2001-01, and it was agreed that you would submit a supplement to your September 4, 2001, letter to the NRC. The NRC staff requires these clarifications to complete its review of your Bulletin 2001-01 response.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-1326.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-368

cc: See next page

If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-1326.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager, Section 1
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-368

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