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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 2
Docket No. 50-368
License No. NPF-6
Supplemental Response To NRC Bulletin 2001-01 Regarding ANO-2 Vessel Head Penetration Inspection Scope

Gentlemen:

On August 3, 2001, the NRC issued Bulletin 2001-01 (OCNA080103), "*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 including licensee's plans for future inspections. For plants in the category of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2) this was to include an effective [bare metal] visual examination of 100% of the VHP nozzles. In response to the bulletin, ANO-2 provided information via letter dated September 4, 2001 (2CAN090002). Due to the inability to readily remove insulation from the ANO-2 reactor head, Entergy proposed to inspect a 25% sample of the ANO-2 VHP nozzles which would be performed from under the vessel head.

A telephone conference was conducted between members of the NRC staff and Entergy on October 9, 2001. In this telephone conference, the NRC staff stated that our commitment to perform a surface or volumetric examination of 25% of the VHP penetrations during the next scheduled refueling outage at ANO-2 was not consistent with Bulletin 2001-01. The NRC staff's expectation for the scope of the inspection is an effective visual examination of 100% of the CEDM penetrations (or 100% volumetric or surface examination) at the next scheduled refueling outage. The NRC staff requested that Entergy reconsider the ANO-2 response to the bulletin. This request was documented in NRC letter dated October 16, 2001 (2CNA100102).

Based on further consideration of the basis for the staff's request and the non-destructive examination technology that is currently in development, Entergy commits to perform a 100% inspection of the ANO-2 VHP nozzles during the upcoming 2R15 outage, which is

scheduled for the spring of 2002. The 100% inspection scope will consist of an examination of all of the VHP nozzles which will include an examination of essentially 360 degrees around the nozzle. This may include volumetric examinations of the heat affected zones, wetted surface examinations, effective visual examinations, or some combination thereof. The examination approach will consider the most appropriate technology at the time of the inspection.

This letter is being submitted as a supplement to the ANO-2 Bulletin 2001-01 response. Therefore, this represents a commitment which modifies our previous ANO-2 inspection scope as discussed above. This letter is being submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.54(f).

If the NRC has any further questions regarding this matter please contact Steve Bennett of my staff at 501-858-4626.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on November 15, 2001.

Very truly yours,

CGA/sab

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