January 3, 2002

Mr. Mark E. Warner
Vice President - TMI Unit 1
AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 (TMI-1) - NRC BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NO. MB2669)

Dear Mr. Warner:

On August 3, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 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 (PWR) plants. You were requested to respond to Items 1 and 3 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your Bulletin response by letter dated August 31, 2001, indicating that your plant is in the category of plants considered as having high susceptibility to VHP nozzle cracking, based on a relative susceptibility ranking of less than five effective full power years from the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, condition. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information. Your Bulletin response stated your intent to perform a visual examination of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles at the next refueling outage, which began October 9, 2001. Since your response states that each of your VHP nozzles has a gap between the nozzle and the reactor pressure vessel head, this visual examination is consistent with the qualified visual examination described in the Bulletin. The NRC staff has concluded that the inspection schedule and scope described in your Bulletin response provide reasonable assurance that public health and safety will be maintained at your plant.

Addressees are reminded that Item 5 of the Bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage (TMI-1 restarted December 5, 2001):

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;

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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1402.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-289

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.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1402.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1

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