

February 21, 2002

Mr. J. A. Price  
Vice President - Nuclear Technical Services - Millstone  
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.  
c/o Mr. David A. Smith  
Rope Ferry Road  
Waterford, CT 06385

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 2 (MILLSTONE 2) -  
RESPONSE TO DNC's FEBRUARY 7, 2002, SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO  
BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR  
PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES"

Dear Mr. Price:

On August 3, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff 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 letters dated September 4, 2001, December 28, 2001, and February 7, 2002. Your inspection plans were also discussed during a telephone conference on Friday, October 5, 2001, and during a public meeting on January 24, 2002.

As a follow-up to the meeting held with the NRC staff on January 24, 2002, you describe plans to perform ultrasonic testing (UT) of your reactor vessel head penetrations (RVHPs) at the next refueling outage of Millstone 2, in your letter dated February 7, 2002. This letter is consistent with the information that you presented to the staff on January 24, 2002, in that you propose to perform 100 percent volumetric inspection of the Millstone 2 RVHPs. However, you cite the possibility of UT equipment failure or some unanticipated interference due to head geometry as the basis for possibly reducing the scope of your inspection to less than 100 percent of the RVHPs, specifically a minimum of 65 out of the 78 RVHPs.

As summarized at the January 24, 2002, meeting, the staff has found that the examination equipment, technology, and methods that you proposed to utilize in your upcoming outage will provide an effective examination to ensure the public health and safety for subsequent operation of the plant. However, the staff does not agree with your statistical analysis used to justify inspecting fewer than 100 percent of the nozzles, and as stated during the January 24, 2002, meeting, the staff concludes that inspection of 100 percent of the nozzles is necessary to ensure the public health and safety for subsequent operation of the plant.

J. Price

- 2 -

If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-3199, or e-mail [jth2@nrc.gov](mailto:jth2@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John T. Harrison, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-336

cc: See next page

J. Price

- 2 -

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