

April 2, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard J. Laufer, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager /RA/
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH DUKE
ENERGY ON THE MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION

On March 21, 2002, the NRC staff (R. Martin, S. Bloom, K. Karwoski, S. Shaeffer, M. Lesser) held a telephone conference with representatives of Duke Energy regarding inspections recently completed on the McGuire Unit 2 reactor vessel head. The telephone conference was held in response to NRC Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," dated March 18, 2002. Representatives of Duke Energy included M. Wilder, McGuire Licensing Engineer, B. Travis, McGuire Engineering Manager, M. Cash, Corporate Licensing Manager, M. Robinson, Corporate Engineering Manager and D. Whitaker, Engineer.

On or about March 18, 2002, during a final walkdown of McGuire Unit 2 in preparation for exiting its refueling and inspection outage, Duke identified a small amount of boron (approximately ½ of a cubic inch) along one of the control rod drive mechanisms. The leak was from an intermediate canopy seal weld. The leak was repaired.

On March 19, 2002, Duke decided to perform a 100 percent bare-metal visual inspection of the reactor vessel head. This inspection was completed on March 20, 2002. The vessel head was found to be in a very clean condition with no boron deposits on the head. Two pieces of foreign material (i.e., instrument clip and steel wire) were found on the head as was some material from the weld preparation for the canopy seal leak discussed above. This latter material was removed. Duke stated that these activities were expected to add about seven rem to the occupational radiation exposure for the outage. With respect to the likelihood of developing circumferential cracking of the control rod drive mechanisms, McGuire Unit 2 has been categorized as a low susceptibility plant.

The NRC staff informed Duke that this telephone conference would be documented in a memorandum to file.

Docket No. 50-370

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