

April 16, 2002

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

FROM: Gordon E. Edison, Senior Project Manager, Section 1/RA/
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE CALL WITH VEPCO RE: REACTOR VESSEL HEAD
INSPECTION (TAC NO. MB4584)

On March 28, 2002, a conference call was held with Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO). The purpose of the call was to discuss their plans for an inspection of the Surry Unit 2 reactor vessel head during their spring 2002, refueling outage. Participants in the call are listed in the Enclosure. The licensee had previously inspected the head in late November 2001, for evidence of nozzle leakage as a result of NRC Bulletin 2001-01.

The licensee stated they planned to do a 100% qualified visual bare metal inspection of the top of the head within the control rod drive mechanism ventilation shroud in early April 2002. This inspection would assess the general condition of the head and whether the vessel head penetration nozzles had through-wall degradation. They indicated they did not expect to see evidence of leakage (boric acid deposits) on the top of the head because they had inspected the head 4 months earlier and found the head relatively clean.

No ultrasonic or other nondestructive testing is planned unless evidence of leakage is observed. Based on corrosion rate estimates from the Davis-Besse head corrosion, VEPCO projected no significant head corrosion over the next operating cycle (about 18 months) even if leakage began after restart from this outage. The NRC staff had no objections to the licensee's testing plans as described; however, the staff indicated that a visual exam for leaking nozzles will only indicate if a nozzle has a through-wall flaw, but will not indicate if a deep partial through-wall flaw exists. VEPCO agreed to hold another conference call after the inspection and prior to restart, to discuss the inspection results with NRC.

Docket No. 50-281

Attachment: As stated

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DATE	04/05/2002	04/04/2002	04/05/2002

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PARTICIPATION IN MARCH 28, 2002
RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL HEAD
INSPECTION AT SURRY, UNIT 2

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