June 20, 2002

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

FROM: Donna Skay, Project Manager, Section 1 ***/RA/***
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION OF CONFERENCE CALL TO CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 ON JUNE 4, 2002, REGARDING RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 2002-01 (TAC NOS. MB4533 AND MB4534)

On June 4, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a teleconference with Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Inc. (CCNPPI) to discuss their 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity." During the teleconference, the licensee provided the following responses to questions posed by the NRC staff (Steve Bloom and Andrea Lee (EMCB)):

1. Question: Your 15-day response to Bulletin 2001-01 indicated that the boric acid observed during your recent Unit 1 outage was attributable to a previous incore instrumentation (ICI) flange penetration leak. Provide your basis for concluding that the source of the boric acid was the previous ICI leakage event. Discuss whether or not the deposits could be masking leakage from the control element drive mechanism (CEDM) nozzles.

   Answer: The licensee stated that the boric acid deposits observed during the recent Unit 1 outage were formed in a donut shape near the ICI nozzle, directly below the insulation gap. The leakage from the ICI flange connection occurred above the insulation and flowed through gaps in the insulation to form the donut shape residue on the vessel head. No trails of boric acid were found from the CEDM nozzles. Therefore, the licensee concluded that the deposits could not have been formed by leakage from the CEDM nozzles.

2. Question: With regards to the boric acid residue found during the Unit 1 inspections in 2002, your 15-day Bulletin 2002-01 response stated that there was no evidence of structurally significant degradation. Quantify any degradation that was identified (i.e. even if the degradation was not structurally significant).

   Answer: Following removal of the boric acid deposits found during the Unit 1 inspections, the licensee observed some surface discoloration (rust) beneath the deposits. The licensee concluded that the surface rust was not detrimental to the structural integrity of the reactor vessel.

The staff requested that the licensee provide the information discussed during the telephone conference in a supplemental letter. The licensee agreed to include the information as part of their combined 30-day response to Bulletins 2001-01 and 2002-01. In addition, the licensee agreed to provide post-cleaning pictures of the reactor vessel head to the staff.

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