

On August 3, 2001, the 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[s] dated [fill in date], 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 (EFPY) from the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, condition. The 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, scheduled for October 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 staff has concluded that the inspection schedule and scope described in your Bulletin response provide reasonable assurance that the 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:

- 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.

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You provided your Bulletin response by letter dated *[fill in date]*, indicating that your plant[s] is/are classified as having previously identified primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) in the VHP nozzles at your plant[s]. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information. Your Bulletin response stated that you plan to perform a qualified visual examination of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles at your next refueling outage, consistent with the description for such an examination provided in Bulletin 2001-01. Although the proposed inspection method and schedule described in your Bulletin response are not consistent with the discussion in the Bulletin for plants which have identified PWSCC in their VHP nozzles, the staff has concluded that the most recent qualified visual examination of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles performed at your plant, in conjunction with your inspection plans, provides reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained through the next inspection at your plant. Since the proposed inspection scope and schedule described in your response were integral to the staff's finding, it is the staff's expectation that you will submit a revised response to the Bulletin if you make any substantive changes to the schedule and/or scope of future inspections for your plant[s]. If warranted by such changes, the staff will reevaluate this issue for *[fill in plants names]*.

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- 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.