

Allen -
does not think will find December
to April. - does think have articles
that could challenge - ?

Release

Rick,

this is FYI. Please call
me if you have questions.

Thanks,

Stacey
X1733

F-12
AAH

AAH

AAH



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NRC-REG-100-100

November 6, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. John T. Larkins, Executive Director
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

FROM:  Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT OF REACTOR PRESSURE
VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLE CRACKING

The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," on August 3, 2001, in response to recent observations of this new cracking phenomena. In the Bulletin, the staff discussed a graded approach for inspecting reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles based on an industry-developed model to rank the pressurized water reactor units based on their relative susceptibility to this cracking mechanism.

In parallel with our efforts to engage the licensees regarding their responses to the Bulletin and this issue in general, the staff has been assessing the various technical issues regarding circumferential cracking of VHP nozzles. The attached preliminary technical assessment documents the status of the staff's work to date. The preliminary technical assessment will be discussed in detail with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) at the meeting scheduled for November 9, 2001.

This assessment represents our best characterization of this issue at this time. The staff continues to engage the industry and gather additional information regarding VHP nozzle inspection results and the various technical aspects related to this cracking issue, and we will continue to update our assessment.

Attached are the nonproprietary and proprietary versions of the staff's technical assessment.

If you have any questions regarding this report or related issues, please contact Allen Hiser of my staff.

Attachments: As stated

cc w/attachment: see next page

CONTACT: Allen Hiser, EMCB/DE
(301) 415-1034