

October 21, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: John A. Nakoski, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Stephen R. Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1 */RA/*
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 2, 2002, CONFERENCE CALL REGARDING
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY'S PROPOSAL TO
REPLACE THE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD AT NORTH ANNA POWER
STATION, UNIT 2

On October 2, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a telephone conference call with the staff of Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) and Framatome ANP to discuss the option of replacing the reactor vessel head at North Anna Power Station, Unit 2. The list of conference call participants is attached. This call was conducted as a result of VEPCO identifying recent reactor vessel head degradation while conducting inspections in accordance with NRC Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs."

During the call, the licensee stated that they were exploring the option of replacing the reactor vessel head at North Anna, Unit 2 with a reactor vessel head that was manufactured in France by Framatome ANP. The recent inspections of the currently installed reactor vessel head had caused VEPCO to become concerned about the financial costs of repairing reactor vessel head penetrations. VEPCO indicated there was a reactor vessel head in France that could possibly be used at North Anna, Unit 2. This head was originally constructed to French standards. As such, VEPCO and the staff discussed various methods for reconciling a component designed and fabricated using French standards to the ASME Code, which is used by the NRC. VEPCO explained that it had identified two major technical differences at this time between this proposed replacement reactor vessel head and the reactor vessel head currently installed at North Anna, Unit 2. The Framatome head uses smaller J-groove welds and utilizes a friction weld on the control rod drive mechanism. VEPCO requested to implement Generic Letter 89-09, "ASME Section III Component Replacements" to support the reactor vessel head replacement. The staff replied that this issue would have to be examined and agreed to conduct another conference call to address the technical aspects of this project. The staff recommended the licensee contact the ASME Code committee for technical assistance in reconciling the French standards to the ASME Code.

Docket No. 50-339

Attachment: As stated

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DATE	10/16/02	10/16/02	10/21/02

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CONFERENCE CALL ON OCTOBER 2, 2002

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NRC

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Dale Thatcher, NRR
Ted Quay, NRR
Mike Marshall, NRR
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REGION II

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