

Duke Energy Company
Energy Operations, Inc.
Florida Power Corporation

Oconee 1, 2, 3
ANO-1
Crystal River 3



AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Framatome ANP

TMI-1
D-B

Working Together to Economically Provide Reliable and Safe Electrical Power

November 12, 2002
JFM:02:020
OG:02:1828

To: B&WOG Licensing Working Group

Preliminary Safety Concern Related to Chemical Samples Taken from the Lower Reactor Vessel Head at Davis Besse

Reference: Letter, J. F. Mallay (Framatome ANP) to B&WOG Members, JFM:02:017/
OG:02:1825, October 17, 2002

Framatome ANP initiated a preliminary safety concern on September 30 based on the results of chemical analyses of samples provided by FirstEnergy that were taken from the lower head at Davis Besse (PSC 4-02). These results, which show the relative concentrations of selected elements from various locations on the lower head and instrument penetration nozzles, are not definitive enough to identify the source of leakage. However, according to the PSC, there is some indication that leakage occurred at locations other than the upper head of the reactor vessel.

This PSC states that the concern that was identified from an evaluation of these limited samples applies to all B&W-supplied reactor vessels. At this time, Framatome has no additional information on which to base a sound resolution of this outstanding concern. FirstEnergy has committed to performing an extended pressure test and a subsequent bare metal examination, which are likely to occur in early 2003. Limited visual examinations of the lower head have been conducted recently at Oconee Unit 2 and Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1, and no evidence of local leakage was found.

In view of the limited information available and our obligation to inform the NRC of the reportability of this matter under 10CFR21, Framatome believes each licensee should assume responsibility for making its own individual reports to the NRC stating its conclusions. Framatome cannot assume responsibility for making a determination of reportability when the matter concerns conditions existing at the individual units. Alternatively, the B&WOG might decide that it is appropriate to make a consolidated report.

Framatome ANP B&W Owners Group
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501
Phone: 434-832-3635 Fax: 434-832-4121

D045

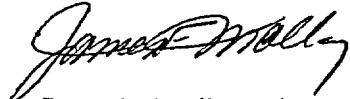
Document Control Desk
November 12, 2002

JFM:02:020
OG:02:1828
Page 2

Because of the 60-day time period specified in Part 21, an interim report is due to the NRC by November 29. Because FirstEnergy was the only organization to notify the NRC of the situation after the safety concern was identified, Framatome is working with personnel at Davis Besse to provide an interim report. However, even if this interim report is filed by FirstEnergy, it does not relieve other owners of B&W reactor vessels from the responsibility for making their own reports to the NRC.

Framatome requests that each member of the B&WOG notify us by November 19 of its intent to provide a report to the NRC.

Very truly yours,



James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: J. Colaccino
D. G. Holland
Project 693