

November 19, 2002

Mr. David A. Christian  
Sr. Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
5000 Dominion Blvd.  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSES FOR NORTH ANNA AND SURRY POWER STATIONS, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB2641, MB2642, MB2667, AND MB2668)

Dear Mr. Christian:

On August 3, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," which requested addressees to provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking 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. By letters dated August 31 and November 14, 2001, and January 23, 2002, for North Anna, Units 1 and 2, and Surry, Units 1 and 2, and by letters dated November 5, 2001 (North Anna, Unit 1), January 11 and March 22, 2002 (North Anna, Unit 2), June 13 and July 2, 2002 (North Anna, Units 1 and 2), and January 2, 2002 (Surry, Units 1 and 2), Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) provided responses to Bulletin 2001-01.

Regarding your initial response to Bulletin 2001-01, the NRC staff raised an issue with the plant-specific analyses used to establish the visual examinations that were conducted at these four units as "qualified visual examinations" that met the criteria in Bulletin 2001-01. By letters dated November 14, 2001, and January 23, 2002, you provided additional information to support your position. However, based on your responses to questions regarding the as-built measurements of the VHP diameters and the VHP nozzle outside diameters for these plants, the NRC staff was still unable to conclude that these examinations (completed in the fall of 2001) meet the criteria of a "qualified visual examination."

Subsequently, the NRC staff issued Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs," on August 9, 2002. In response to this bulletin, you committed to supplement the bare metal visual examination with ultrasonic testing and eddy current testing of the VHP nozzles and associated J-groove welds during each unit's next refueling outage. The issuance of Bulletin 2002-02 has superseded our previous intent to further review the "qualified visual examinations" of Bulletin 2001-01. Effective as of the date of this letter, the NRC staff will be examining the adequacy of your response to Bulletin 2002-02 in lieu of further review of your previous responses to Bulletin 2001-01.

D. A. Christian

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The NRC staff has completed its activities associated with the review of your responses to Bulletin 2001-01 and has closed TAC Nos. MB2641, MB2642, MB2667, and MB2668 for North Anna, Units 1 and 2, and Surry, Units 1 and 2, respectively. Please contact Stephen Monarque at (301) 415-1544 or Gordon Edison at (301) 415-1448 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Gordon E. Edison, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-338, 50-339,  
50-280, and 50-281

cc: See next page

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