

December 02, 2002

Mr. Mark E. Warner, Site Vice President
c/o James M. Peschel
Seabrook Station
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2002-02,
"REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD AND VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION
NOZZLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS" (TAC NO. MB5923)

Dear Mr. Warner:

On August 9, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs." The Bulletin requested addressees to provide information related to their reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head and vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzle inspection programs for their respective facilities, including a summary discussion of inspection program plans to supplement their required visual inspections with non-visual nondestructive examination methods, or justification for reliance on visual examinations as the primary method to detect degradation. Addressees were requested to respond to Item (1) of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance, or within 15 days of its issuance, to provide an alternative course of action, including the basis for acceptability of the proposed action.

By letter dated September 6, 2002, North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation provided a response to Item (1) of the Bulletin, indicating the plans to perform RPV head and VHP nozzle inspections at Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1. The response also indicated that Seabrook Station, Unit No. 1 is in the category of plants considered to have low susceptibility to RPV head and VHP cracking, based on a susceptibility ranking of less than eight effective degradation years.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to Item (1) of the Bulletin. The staff finds your inspection plan to perform inspections in accordance with the Example Supplemental Inspection program in the bulletin provides reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety.

M. Warner

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Note, that as stated in Item (2) of the Bulletin, you are to report to the Commission your inspection scope and results within 30 days after plant restart following the inspection of the RPV head and VHP nozzles.

Please contact me at (301) 415-1122 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert D. Starkey, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-443

cc: See next page

M. Warner

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