

May 14, 2003

Kenneth Chang
Mechanical Engineer
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs

SUBJECT: APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT OF OVERSIGHT OF THE REPLACEMENT
OF THE NORTH ANNA, UNIT 2, REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD

Dear Mr. Chang:

The purpose of this memorandum is to express my appreciation for the outstanding support you provided, between October 2002 and February 2003, to the team that oversaw the replacement of the North Anna, Unit 2, reactor pressure vessel head. As you are aware, this was the first time a major reactor vessel component manufactured to a foreign construction code (the French Nuclear Construction Code - RCC-M) was installed at a commercial U.S. power reactor. In addition, this was the first time a reactor pressure vessel head was replaced at a commercial U.S. pressurized water reactor and the unit returned to service.

Your knowledge of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* and your extensive knowledge of design engineering were instrumental in facilitating the detailed technical exchange of information with the French regulatory authority and Framatome ANP. Your knowledge and experience in these areas provided the technical credibility to the team that was needed to ensure that our interactions with the French were properly focused on the key technical issues associated with the replacement reactor pressure vessel head. In addition, your outstanding support to the team during its review of the reconciliation performed by the licensee was greatly appreciated.

Using your wealth of industry experience, you were of great assistance to me in assuring that the effort remained properly focused on the areas the NRC needed to review. Thank you for your support on this effort. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management

cc: D. Matthews
F. Gillespie
P. TKuo
S. Lee

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OFFICE	PDII-1/LA	PDII-1/SC
NAME	CHawes	JNakoski
DATE	5/13/03	5/13/03

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