



Serial: RNP-RA/04-0008

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261/LICENSE NO. DPR-23

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF
REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD INSPECTIONS PLANNED FOR
REFUELING OUTAGE 22 IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRC BULLETIN 2002-02

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated September 9, 2002, Carolina Power and Light Company, now doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. (PEC), provided a response to Item (1) of NRC Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs," for H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (HBRSEP), Unit No. 2. The NRC staff provided the results of their review of that response by letter dated December 30, 2002, which noted that the frequencies of future supplemental examinations will be determined at a later date based on additional inspection results and other industry information. The NRC staff requested a summary description of the inspection program no later than 90 days prior to the start of the refueling outage following the fall 2002 outage. This letter provides the requested summary description.

On February 11, 2003, subsequent to the issuance of NRC Bulletin 2002-02 and the other above-referenced correspondence, the NRC issued Order EA-03-009, "Issuance of Order Establishing Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads at Pressurized Water Reactors."

PEC provided a response to that Order by letter dated March 3, 2003. The PEC response for HBRSEP, Unit No. 2, stated that previous inspection results and materiel condition of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head were being reviewed to determine if there is sufficient technical basis to warrant relaxation of the Order requirements. Also in that letter, PEC consented to the Order subject to the understanding that it may seek relaxation of the requirements in Section IV of the Order, if the criteria of Section IV.F are met; and, the reservation of the right of HBRSEP, Unit No. 2, to request a hearing on any requirements of the Order that may be subject to such a relaxation request.

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By letters dated August 15 and December 22, 2003, PEC has requested relaxation of the requirements of NRC Order EA-03-009. These submittals, and supplements thereto, summarize the inspections that are intended to be performed for the HBRSEP, Unit No. 2, RPV head during Refueling Outage (RO)-22, which begins in April 2004.

As noted within prior submittals, it is currently planned that the HBRSEP, Unit No. 2, RPV head will be replaced in October 2005 during RO-23.

NRC Order EA-03-009 has superseded NRC Bulletin 2002-02. Therefore, no further submittal of planned examinations will be provided in response to NRC Bulletin 2002-02.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,



C. T. Baucom
Supervisor - Licensing/Regulatory Programs

CTB/cac

c: Mr. L. A. Reyes, NRC, Region II
Mr. C. P. Patel, NRC, NRR
NRC Resident Inspector