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Docket No.: 50-424

NL-05-0923

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant  
Results of Inspections Required by NRC Bulletin 2004-01 and  
First Revised NRC Order EA-03-009

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On February 20, 2004, the NRC issued the First Revised NRC Order EA-03-009 to establish interim inspection requirements for reactor pressure vessel (RPV) heads at pressurized water reactors. On March 8, 2004, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted an answer to the revised order which included a request for relaxation of the Order pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph IV.F. SNC completed visual inspections to identify potential boric acid leaks from pressure-retaining components above the RPV head as required by paragraph IV.D of the Order during the recent spring 2005 refueling outage (1R12) at Unit 1 of the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP-1). This report provides the results of the inspection as required by Paragraph IV.E of the Order. This letter also reports the results of inspection of Alloy 82/182/600 materials used in the fabrication of pressurizer nozzle penetrations as requested by NRC Bulletin 2004-01.

**Examinations Required by the First Revised NRC Order EA-03-009, Establishing Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads at Pressurized Water Reactors:**

As required by paragraph IV.A of the Order, SNC calculated the Effective Degradation Year (EDY) value at the start of 1R12 for VEGP-1. The current EDY value is 3.01 years which places VEGP-1 into the Low (EDY <8) category for susceptibility to primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) established by Paragraph IV.B. The susceptibility category determines the required examinations and timing of those examinations. As reported by SNC's December 19, 2003 letter, SNC completed a bare metal visual (BMV) examination of >99% of the RPV top head surface including 360° around each RPV head penetration nozzle during the fall 2003 refueling outage (1R11) at VEGP-1. This examination satisfied the requirements of Paragraph IV(C)(3) of the Order consistent with SNC's request for relaxation. The relaxation request proposed to achieve substantial compliance with the 100% BMV examination requirement of Paragraph IV.C.(5)(a) by conducting a BMV examination of the RPV to the extent accessible. The inspection requirement of Paragraph IV.D was required to be performed on the RPV top head during 1R12.

A110  
A101

Inspection Results:

Boron residue was observed during the visual inspections on the RPV top head and a "general" visual inspection was performed with insulation panels removed from the closure head. No evidence of head material wastage or of leaking or cracked nozzles was found. The boron residue was determined to be associated with previous cleaning/decontamination efforts of conoseals and not associated with new "active" leakage. The areas below the conoseals were cleaned and reinspected during Mode 3 startup with no leakage observed.

Documentation:

The examination was documented by a written report.

**Examinations Required by Bulletin 2004-01, Inspection of Alloy 82/182/600  
Materials Used in the Fabrication of Pressurizer Nozzle Penetrations and Steam  
Space Connections at Pressurized Water Reactors:**

A BMV examination was performed on four 6" Safety/Relief Nozzles (Numbers 11201-V6-002-W17, 18, 19, and 20) and one 4" Spray Nozzle (Number 11201-V6-002-W21).

In addition, an Appendix VIII volumetric examination was performed on the 4" Spray Nozzle (Number 11201-V6-002-W21).

Inspection Results:

No evidence of material wastage or of leaking or cracked nozzles was found by BMV examinations.

Examination coverage of 100% was achieved in the performance of the volumetric examination of the 4" Spray Nozzle with no recordable indications.

Documentation:

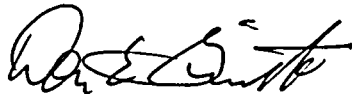
The examinations performed were documented by a written report.

Mr. D. E. Grissette states he is a Vice President of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is authorized to execute this oath on behalf of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, the facts set forth in this letter are true.

This letter contains no NRC commitments. If you have any questions, please advise.

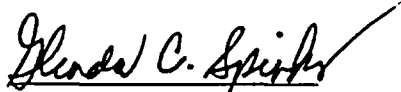
Respectfully submitted,

SOUTHERN NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY



Don E. Grissette

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.



Notary Public

My commission expires: 11/10/06

DEG/DRG/daj

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. J. T. Gasser, Executive Vice President  
Mr. W. F. Kitchens, General Manager – Plant Vogtle  
RType: CVC7000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Dr. W. D. Travers, Regional Administrator  
Mr. C. Gratton, NRR Project Manager – Vogtle  
Mr. G. J. McCoy, Senior Resident Inspector – Vogtle

State of Georgia  
Mr. L. C. Barrett, Commissioner – Department of Natural Resources