

July 14, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Brooke D. Poole, Acting Chief
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager **/RAI/**
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE POWER STATION, UNIT NO. 3 - FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION, DRAFT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING RELAXATION REQUEST IR-2-46, REACTOR PRESSURE
VESSEL HEAD INSPECTIONS (TAC NO. MD1735)

The attached draft request for additional information (RAI) was transmitted on July 14, 2006 to Mr. Paul Willoughby, at Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC) by facsimile. This was done to support a telephone conversation to facilitate the review being conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in order to clarify certain items in the licensee's submittal. The draft RAI is related to DNC's submittal dated May 16, 2006, regarding a request for relaxation to the reactor pressure vessel head inspection requirements of the First Revised NRC Order (EA-03-009). Review of the draft RAI will allow DNC to determine and agree upon a schedule for response to the RAI. This memorandum and the attachment do not convey a formal request for information or represent an NRC staff position.

Docket No. 50-423

Enclosure:
As stated

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DRAFT REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MILLSTONE POWER STATION, UNIT 3

RELAXATION REQUEST IR-2-46

ALTERNATIVE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD INSPECTION CRITERIA

DOCKET NO. 50-423

By letter dated May 16, 2006, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC, the licensee) submitted a request for relaxation to the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head inspection requirements of the First Revised NRC Order (EA-03-009). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff requests the following additional information to complete its review.

1. Provide details of the attachment of the guide funnel to the nozzle, including details of the weld length, size, filler material type, etc.
2. Describe how the weld attaching the guide funnel to the nozzle will affect the ability of the ultrasonic test, from the inner diameter of the nozzle, to detect flaws.
3. When determining the operating stresses in the nozzle at the top of the guide funnel, how will the weld attaching the guide funnel to the nozzle be taken into consideration?
4. In the second paragraph under the reason for request, a distance is referred to. The paragraph states: "Based on comparison with similarly designed RPV closure heads, this distance is reasonably estimated at less than 1.0-inch." What distance is this referring to?
5. Approval of the licensee's relief request is dependent on the NRC staff evaluating the results of the licensee's complete structural integrity evaluation and making a finding that it is acceptable. DNC stated that it will provide this information to the NRC before entry into Mode 4 following refueling. What is the earliest estimated date that this information for the structural evaluation can be provided? That is, can the evaluation be completed sooner for a variety of distances from toe of the J-grove weld to the top of the funnel?

Enclosure