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MLL
From: Bella Khodorkovsky
To: Bill Bateman; Jay Collins; Kevin Johnson; Michele Evans; Terence Chan; Thomas Wengert; William Cullen
Date: Thu, Jun 28, 2007 10:19 AM
Subject: Dispatching: **YT020070131** Letter Repsonse to T. Gurdziel, (RPV Head Inspections & Exponent Report)

June 27, 2007

Mr. Thomas Gurdziel
9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126

Dear Mr. Gurdziel:

This letter is in response to your letter addressed to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, dated May 22, 2007, in which you requested action relative to reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head inspections at each domestic pressurized water reactor (PWR) plant. In your letter, you requested the NRC to consider the Exponent Failure Analysis Associates and Altran Solutions Corporation (jointly referred to as "Exponent") Report Project Number BN63097.001, "Review & Analysis of the Davis-Besse March 2002 Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Wastage Event," as accurate until the NRC or industry proves it is not. Further, until this action is complete you recommended increasing RPV head inspection frequency to a four (4) month interval.

The NRC does not plan to perform a detailed engineering review of the Exponent report. The NRC has evaluated its current reactor vessel head and penetration nozzle inspection requirements assuming that the Exponent results are technically correct and concluded that the NRC inspection requirements remain adequate to assure the safety of operating pressurized water reactors and detect vessel penetration flaws before significant degradation occurs. This NRC assessment is publicly available and a copy has been attached to this letter.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Grobe, Associate Director
for Engineering and Safety Systems,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation,

ADAMS ACCESSION NOS.:
PACKAGE NO.: ML071790106
LETTER NO.: ML071790100
REPORT NO.: ML071240254

CONTACT: Jay W. Collins, DCI/CPNB, 415-4038

NOTE: The attached ADAMS pointer is to an advanced copy of the document mentioned above. It is currently being processed and will be an OAR as soon as possible.

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