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Docket No.: 50-425

NL-08-1846

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

**Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Results of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Inspections
Required by First Revised Order EA-03-009**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

During the 2008 VEGP Unit 2 fall refueling outage (2R13), Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) completed a bare metal visual (BMV) examination of >99% of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) top head surface, including 360° around each RPV head penetration nozzle as required under paragraph IV.C.(5)(a) of the First Revised NRC Order EA-03-009 (Order), consistent with the relaxation granted by the NRC (TAC Nos. MC7019 and MC7020) dated September 13, 2005. 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.

Paragraph IV.A of the Order requires SNC to calculate the Effective Degradation Year (EDY) value at the start of 2R13 for VEGP Unit 2. The current EDY value is 3.32 years, which places VEGP Unit 2 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.

SNC hereby provides the results of the inspections conducted during 2R13 as required by paragraph IV.E of the Order. BMV examination beneath the RPV insulation package was performed using robotic crawlers and video probes. The examination satisfied the portion of paragraph IV.C.(3) of the Order which specified an inspection meeting the requirements of paragraph IV.C.(5)(a), consistent with SNC's March 8, 2004 request for relaxation. Scope of this examination was not 100% of the head surface because of the small area (<1%) of the head made inaccessible by the shroud support structure and insulation interference. However, the examination was able to achieve 360° around each RPV head penetration nozzle, as required by the Order. No evidence of head material wastage or of leaking or cracked nozzles was found by the BMV of the RPV top head. The examination was documented by a written report,

supplemented by video and photographic images supporting the examination results. This report also provides an updated baseline for future examinations.

Visual inspections were performed to identify potential boric acid leaks from pressure-retaining components above the RPV head as required by paragraph IV.D of the Order. No issues were reported.

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

Sincerely,



M. J. Ajluni
Manager, Nuclear Licensing

MJA/TAH/daj

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company
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