

November 27, 2009

LICENSEE: Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc.

FACILITY: Kewaunee Power Station

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL BETWEEN DOMINION ENERGY KEWAUNEE, INC. AND U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TO DISCUSS THE SURVEILLANCE AND AGING MANAGEMENT OF ITS NEUTRON ABSORBING MATERIAL (TAC NO. MD9408)

On October 22, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) conducted a conference call (teleconference) with representatives from Dominion Energy Kewaunee, Inc. (DEK). The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss DEK responses to the staff's requests for additional information (RAIs) regarding the Kewaunee Power Station (KPS) Neutron Absorbing Material (Boral/Boron Carbide).

In a letter dated July 7, 2009 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML091190389), the staff submitted its RAIs related to KPS neutron absorbing material. In the RAI letter, the staff had three requests that were related to the Boral and Boron Carbide (RAIs 3.3.2.2.6-1, 3.3.2.2.6-2, and 3.3.2.2.6-3). DEK responded to the staff's RAIs on a letter dated August 6, 2009 (ADAMS Accession Number ML092230618). During the teleconference, the staff indicated that the responses to RAIs 3.3.2.2.6-1, 3.3.2.2.6-2, and 3.3.2.2.6-3 did not provide enough information for the staff to make its evaluation. The main issue discussed during the teleconference is summarized below.

Need of a Program to assess the material condition of the neutron absorbing material

- The applicant does not have a program to assess the material condition of the Boral in the KPS spent fuel pool and transfer canal. The staff indicated that to have reasonable assurance that the aging of the material would be adequately managed during the period of extended operation, a program describing the frequency and attributes that would be monitored needs to be submitted for review. The staff believes that operating experience indicating that no degradation of the neutron absorbing material at KPS is not sufficient basis to conclude that degradation would not occur in the future.

As a result of the discussions, DEK indicated that they will supplement their responses to RAIs 3.3.2.2.6-1, 3.3.2.2.6-2, and 3.3.2.2.6-3 to provide additional information to the staff regarding the use and implementation of a program to monitor and assess the condition of the neutron absorbing materials for Kewaunee. A list of teleconference participants is enclosed.

/RA/

Samuel Hernandez, Project Manager
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-305

Enclosure:
As stated

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As a result of the discussions, DEK indicated that they will supplement their responses to RAIs 3.3.2.2.6-1, 3.3.2.2.6-2, and 3.3.2.2.6-3 to provide additional information to the staff regarding the use and implementation of a program to monitor and assess the condition of the neutron absorbing materials for Kewaunee. A list of teleconference participants is enclosed.

/RA/

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October 22, 2009

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