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May 15, 2002

LCV-1608-B

Docket No.: 50-424

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

**Vogtle Electric Generating Plant – Unit 1  
Responses to NRC Bulletin 2002-01 Item 2 and NRC Bulletin 2001-01 Item 5**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the requirements of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," dated March 18, 2002, Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) hereby submits the enclosed information which constitutes the 30-day response required by Bulletin Item 2. Specifically, the enclosure provides the results of the visual examination that was performed on the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Unit 1 reactor pressure vessel closure head during the tenth maintenance/refueling outage in the Spring of 2002. This response is provided in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(f).


In addition, this information fulfills a commitment made in SNC's August 29, 2001, response to NRC Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," Item 5 for VEGP Unit 1.

Mr. J. B. Beasley, Jr. states he is Vice President of Southern Nuclear Operating Company and 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.

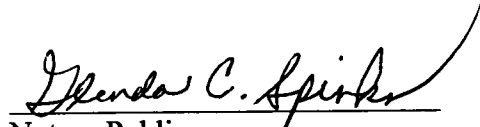
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Please contact this office if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

  
J. B. Beasley, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002.

  
Notary Public

My commission expires: 11/10/02

JBB/BHW

Enclosure

cc: Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
Mr. J. T. Gasser  
Mr. M. Sheibani  
SNC Document Management

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mr. L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator  
Mr. F. Rinaldi, Licensing Project Manager, NRR  
Mr. J. Zeiler, Senior Resident Inspector, Vogtle

The general condition of the RPV closure was very good, with some slight debris and/or foreign objects noted. There was no apparent evidence of boric acid residue from active leakage in the vicinity of any of the head penetrations at the interface between the RPV closure head and the penetration stalks. Several locations had small white spots on the penetration stalk above the penetration to RPV closure head interface, a condition that is not unusual for locations that have been vented or disassembled in the past. Following the examination, the RPV closure head was washed to remove the noted boric acid residue, debris, and/or foreign objects from the head.

All documentation associated with this examination is available at the plant site for review upon request.

### **Required Information**

“...submit to the NRC the following information: the corrective actions taken and the root cause for the degradation.”

### **SNC Response**

As discussed in the response to Bulletin Item 2.A, no degradation of the VEGP Unit 1 RPV closure head was observed during the remote, visual examination that was performed during the Spring 2002 tenth maintenance/refueling outage. As a result, no corrective actions or root cause investigation are necessary.