

November 9, 2004

Mr. David A. Christian
Senior Vice President - Chief Nuclear Officer
Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc.
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060-6711

SUBJECT: MILLSTONE POWER STATION, UNIT 3 - RESPONSE TO NRC
BULLETIN 2003-02, "LEAKAGE FROM REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL
LOWER HEAD PENETRATIONS AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE
BOUNDARY INTEGRITY" (TAC NO. MC0547)

Dear Mr. Christian:

On August 21, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued NRC Bulletin 2003-02, "Leakage from Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetrations and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry. This Bulletin informed addressees that current methods of inspecting the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) lower heads may need to be supplemented with bare-metal visual inspections in order to detect reactor coolant pressure boundary leakage and requested these addressees provide the NRC with information related to inspections that have been performed to verify the integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

The Bulletin requested that addressees provide a description of the RPV lower head penetration inspection program that would be implemented at their respective plants during the next and subsequent refueling outages. This description was to include the extent of the inspection, the inspection methods to be used, the qualification standards for the inspection methods, the process used to resolve the source of findings of boric acid deposits or corrosion, the inspection documentation to be generated, and the basis for concluding that their plant satisfied applicable regulatory requirements related to the structural and leakage integrity of the RPV lower head penetrations.

By letter dated November 17, 2003, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. (DNC) provided its response to this request. DNC indicated it planned to perform a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination of all 58 RPV lower head penetrations during the spring 2004 refueling outage at Millstone Power Station, Unit 3. In its same response, DNC committed to performing a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination of these 58 penetrations during each subsequent refueling outage at Millstone, Unit 3, although DNC indicated that this inspection schedule may be revised in the future should ongoing research and inspection results determine that a less frequent inspection or sample schedule is warranted. As such, DNC is requested to notify the NRC staff in writing of any changes to this commitment prior to implementation.

The Bulletin also requested that addressees provide a summary of the RPV lower head penetration inspection that was performed at their plants, the extent of the inspection and the methods used, a description of the as-found condition of the lower head, any findings of

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relevant indications of through-wall leakage, and a summary of the disposition of any findings of boric acid deposits and any corrective actions taken as a result of indications found.

By letter dated June 24, 2004, DNC provided a summary of its inspection results at Millstone, Unit 3. DNC reported it had performed a 360-degree bare-metal visual examination of the 58 RPV lower head penetrations with no evidence of penetration leakage or RPV lower head wastage observed.

The NRC staff has completed its review of DNC's responses to NRC Bulletin 2003-02. Accordingly, TAC No. MC0547 is closed for Millstone, Unit 3.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor Nerses, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-423

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