

N378. More Vessel Head Repairs Approved For Jose Cabrera

At the end of May, Spain's regulatory body, Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear(CSN), approved the latest plan for repairs to the reactor vessel head at the Jose Cabrera plant. This involves welding a cap over the inside of a small penetration provided in the top of the vessel head for venting. A small modification to a control rod drive will provide an alternative venting route. The small crack in the upper part of the venting penetration came to light during final pressure testing at the end of March when the reactor was being prepared for restart following repairs to, and inspection of, the larger control rod drive penetrations. The venting penetration had not been included in the earlier inspection programs because it was not considered important and because it was not inspectable by the equipment used for the larger penetrations. CSN has decided to allow the plant to be put back into operation with the capped penetration, pending fabrication of a new vessel head, which is now planned. It will still be necessary for a further hydrostatic test at 25 percent overpressure before the reactor can restart.

For additional information see, "More Vessel Head Repair Approved For Jose Cabrera," pp.34-35, Nuclear News, July 1995/Vol.38/No.9.