

June 28, 2000

Mr. J. V. Parrish
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF EVALUATION OF INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM (ISI)
RELIEF REQUEST 2ISI-18 AND 2ISI-19 - WNP-2 (TAC NO. MA8626)

Dear Mr. Parrish:

By letter dated March 30, 2000, Energy Northwest requested NRC approval for the use of Subsection IWE of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code (ASME Code) for WNP-2. Specifically, Energy Northwest requested approval to use Table IWE-2500-1 from ASME Code Section XI, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda for Examination Category E-D, "Seals, Gaskets, and Moisture Barriers."

The ASME Code of record for the WNP-2 IWE containment inspection program is ASME Section XI 1992 Edition, 1992 Addenda in accordance with the revision of 10 CFR 50.55a, dated August 8, 1996. On September 22, 1999, the NRC incorporated by reference the 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda of ASME Code Section XI into 10 CFR 50.55a (64 FR 51370).

Licensees may meet ISI requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

Therefore, the proposed request is approved pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). Our related safety evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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*For previous concurrences
see attached ORC

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WNP-2

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELIEF REQUEST FROM ASME SECTION XI REQUIREMENTS

FOR CONTAINMENT INSPECTION

ENERGY NORTHWEST

WNP-2

DOCKET NO. 50-397

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In the Federal Register dated August 8, 1996 (61 FR 41303), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) amended its regulations to incorporate by reference the 1992 Edition with 1992 Addenda of Subsections IWE and IWL of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code). Subsections IWE and IWL provide the requirements for inservice inspection (ISI) of Class MC (metallic containment) and Class CC (concrete containment) of light-water cooled power plants. The effective date for the amended rule was September 9, 1996, and it requires the licensees to incorporate the new requirements into their ISI plans and to complete the first containment inspection by September 9, 2001. However, a licensee may propose alternatives to or submit a request for relief from the requirements of the regulation pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3) and (g)(5). In addition, licensees may meet ISI requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

By letter dated March 30, 2000, Energy Northwest requested approval to use Table IWE 2500-1 from ASME Section XI, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda, for Examination Category E-D for WNP-2. The NRC's findings with respect to approving or denying the proposed request are discussed in this evaluation.

2.0 EVALUATION

2.1 Requirements

Section 50.55a of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations was amended in the Federal Register (61 FR 41303) to require the use of the 1992 Edition with 1992 Addenda of Subsections IWE and IWL of Section XI of the ASME Code in performing containment ISIs.

2.2 Specific Relief Requested

Relief is requested from the use of Table IWE-2500-1, Examination Category E-D of the 1992 Edition of Subsection IWE of ASME Section XI for the examination of seals, gaskets and moisture barriers.

2.3 Basis for Relief

This request is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) to use a portion of a later edition and addenda of ASME Section XI which the Commission has incorporated by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a(b).

Energy Northwest requests NRC approval to use Table IWE-2500-1 from ASME Section XI, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda for Examination Category E-D, "Seals, Gaskets, and Moisture Barriers."

The ASME Code of record for the WNP-2 IWE containment inspection program is ASME Section XI 1992 Edition, 1992 Addenda in accordance with the revision of 10 CFR 50.55a, dated August 8, 1996. On September 22, 1999, the NRC incorporated by reference the 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda of ASME Section XI into 10 CFR 50.55a (64 FR 51370).

The requirements of the two editions and addenda are identical for Examination Category E-D except for Note 1. Note 1 in the 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda clarified the examination of Item Numbers E5.10 (seals) and E5.20 (gaskets) by adding, "Sealed or gasketed connections need not be disassembled solely for performance of examination."

Energy Northwest requested approval prior to March 1, 2001 to use the later code requirement to support the scheduled refueling outage in the Spring of 2001.

2.4 Staff Evaluation

In lieu of meeting the requirements of the 1992 Edition of ASME Section XI, Subsection IWE, the licensee proposed to use Table IWE-2500-1 from ASME Section XI, 1995 Edition up to and including the 1996 Addenda for Examination Category E-D, "Seals, Gaskets, and Moisture Barriers."

The staff finds that the requirements of these two editions and addenda are identical for Examination Category E-D except Note 1 of the 1995 Edition which states that sealed or gasketed connections need not be disassembled solely for performance of examination. The NRC has incorporated by reference the 1995 Edition up to and including the 1996 Addenda on September 22, 1999 (64 FR 51370). Therefore, the staff concludes that the licensee's request to use the requirement set forth in this later code edition and addenda are approved pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

3.0 CONCLUSION

Based on our review of the information provided in the request, the staff concludes that the licensee's proposed request is approved pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

Principal Contributor: T. Cheng

Date: June 28, 2000