



**North
Atlantic**

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The Northeast Utilities System

August 17, 2000

Docket No. 50-443

CR# 00-08868

NYN-00073

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Seabrook Station

“Response to Request for Additional Information for Inservice Inspection Program
Alternative Requests 2AR-01 and 2AR-02”

On May 19, 2000 North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation (North Atlantic) forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Alternative Requests 2AR-01 and 2AR-02. 2AR-01 requested NRC approval to utilize ASME Code Case N-533 "Alternative Requirements for VT-2 Visual Examination of Class 1 Insulated Pressure-Retaining Bolted Connections" as an alternative to the requirements of IWA-5242(a) for Class 1 bolted connections in systems borted for the purpose of controlling reactivity. 2AR-02 requested NRC approval for relief from the requirements of IWA-5242(a) for Class 2 bolted connections in systems borted for the purpose of controlling reactivity. As a result of this submittal, a telephone conference was held on August 2, 2000 regarding the issue of test hold times for VT-2 examinations. North Atlantic identified that subsection IWA-5213(a) of Section XI of the 1995 Edition (through the 1996 Addenda) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code does not specifically require hold times for system leakage tests unless required by IWA-4540. However, based on further consideration of this issue, North Atlantic has determined that a 4-hour hold time would provide a more meaningful examination as suggested by the NRC.

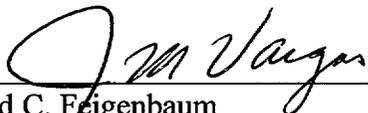
Accordingly, North Atlantic hereby commits to perform a 4-hour hold time for VT-2 examinations performed in accordance with Alternative Requests 2AR-01 and 2AR-02. The North Atlantic commitment associated with this letter is enclosed.

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Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. James M. Peschel,
Manager - Regulatory Programs, at (603) 773-7194.

Very truly yours,

NORTH ATLANTIC ENERGY SERVICE CORP.

 For TCF

Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer

cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Regional Administrator
R.M. Pulsifer, NRC Project Manager, Project Directorate I-2
R. K. Lorson, NRC Senior Resident Inspector

Enclosure to NYN-00073

North Atlantic Commitments Contained in NYN-00073

<u>Action Item</u>	<u>Description of Commitment</u>
CR # 00-08868	Upon or before approval of Alternative Requests 2AR-01 and/or 2AR-02, North Atlantic shall ensure that a 4-hour hold time for VT-2 examinations performed in accordance with Alternative Requests 2AR-01 and 2AR-02 will be implemented.