

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jack R. Strosnider, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: William H. Bateman, Chief
Materials and Chemical Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF ABSTRACT FOR THE 2001 ASME PRESSURE
VESSEL AND PIPING CONFERENCE

Andrea D. Lee has prepared an abstract for a paper that will be entitled, "NRC Perspective on the Interpretation that ASME Section XI Allows Through-Wall Leakage," which was requested for presentation at the 2001 ASME pressure vessel and piping conference. The paper will be co-authored by K. R. Wichman. A. D. Lee will attend the meeting July 22-26, 2001, and will make the presentation. This memorandum is to request your approval of the abstract, which is attached.

Attachment: As stated

CONTACT: A. D. Lee, EMCB/DE
415-2735

Approval: _____
Jack R. Strosnider

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DOCUMENT NAME: G:\EMCB\LEE\2001PVP abstract.wpd

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DATE	8 / 22 /00	8 / 22 /00	8 / 24 /00	8 / 25 /00

NRC PERSPECTIVE ON THE INTERPRETATION THAT ASME SECTION XI ALLOWS THROUGH-WALL LEAKAGE

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2001 ASME PRESSURE VESSEL AND PIPING CONFERENCE

Abstract

A new item entitled, "Leakage Disposition Flow Chart" was introduced during the August 1998 meetings of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Working Group on Pressure Testing (WGPT). The flow chart accompanied an action to re-write Subparagraph IWA-5250, "Corrective Action." The proposed re-write resulted from the WGPT's desire to investigate and develop better Code requirements for the disposition of leakage detected during a pressure test.

This paper presents a discussion of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) perspective on through-wall and through-weld leakage with regard to structural integrity, and consequences of continued operation. The discussion does not include leakage through bolted connections or gaskets. Emphasis is placed on NRC regulations and guidelines which govern U.S. commercial nuclear power plants. These regulations do not allow through-wall or through-weld leakage in, for example, the reactor coolant system. The NRC position is compared to the contention that the ASME Code allows through-wall and through-weld leakage. This opinion periodically emerges, and is debated during ASME Section XI Code meetings.

ATTACHMENT