

NRC 2001-066

10 CFR 50.55a

September 19, 2001

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-17
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS: 50-266 AND 50-301
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ASME SECTION XI RELIEF REQUEST
UNIT 1 RR-1-24/UNIT 2 RR-2-31
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

On September 6, 2001, additional information was requested regarding Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP) Inservice Inspection (ISI) relief requests RR-1-24 and RR-2-30. These relief requests, if approved, will use the 1998 Edition of ASME Section XI with Addenda through 2000. Specifically, additional information was requested on the following two issues:

1. NMC is requested to indicate whether it will commit to comply with the applicable limitations and modifications set forth in the staff's published position, until 10 CFR 50.55a is revised.

Response: The NMC will commit to complying with the limitations and modifications set forth in the NRC staff's published position, which was made public on August 3, 2001, until 10 CFR 50.55a is revised. If there are specific exceptions PBNP wishes to take, a relief request will be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(3).

2. NMC is requested to indicate how its application of the above code, along with the staff's proposed limitations and modifications, would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, as per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

Response: The 1998 Edition of Section XI with Addenda through 2000 was the latest published version of Section XI at the time these relief requests were initially submitted. This edition and addenda of Section XI incorporated the improvements that have been studied and tested since the 1995 Edition of Section XI with Addenda through 1996 which was approved for use by the NRC. There were areas in the 1995 Edition with Addenda through 1996 that needed to be strengthened, so limitations and modifications were suggested in the proposed rule. These limitations and modifications require

additional examinations to ensure components are appropriately addressed when inadequate analysis was provided for change in requirements.

Therefore the use of the 1998 Edition of Section XI with Addenda through 2000, along with the modifications and limitations in the proposed rule, ensures the inservice inspection requirements at PBNP adequately address all areas of concern and will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

Please contact us if there are questions regarding our response to the request for additional information relating to these relief requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Webb', written in a cursive style.

Thomas J. Webb
Licensing Director

FAF/tyf

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator
NRC Project Manager
PSCW