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(66FR 40626)

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October 2, 2001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Response to Request for Comments on Proposed Rule and Withdrawal of Proposed Rule to Amend 10 CFR 50.55a "Industry Codes and Standards"

Reference: Volume 66, Federal Register, Page 40626 (66 FR 40626), dated August 3, 2001

Exelon Generation Company (EGC), LLC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NRC's proposed rule and withdrawal of a proposed rule to amend 10 CFR 50.55a "Industry Codes and Standards." The proposed rule would incorporate by reference a later edition and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and the ASME code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code). This would provide updated rules for construction, inservice inspection (ISI) and inservice testing (IST) of components in light-water cooled nuclear power plants. The NRC is also proposing to withdraw a supplemental proposed rule that would have eliminated the requirement for licensees to update their ISI and IST programs every 120 months to the latest ASME Code edition and addenda incorporated by reference in the regulations. This letter provides our comments in response to the reference proposed rule.

The proposed limitation provided in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(xii)(B) should be deleted. The limitation would not allow piping that penetrates the containment that is connected to piping outside the scope of Section XI to be exempted from pressure testing. The subject piping should be exempted from the pressure testing provisions of Subsection IWA as permitted by IWA-5110 (c) of the 1997 Addenda through the 2000 Addenda to be consistent with the principles of IWE-5000.

The proposed revision to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B)(1) would require the start of the first 120-month interval for ISI of Class MC and Class CC components coincide with the start of the first containment inspection. This requirement could result in significant administrative hardship for sites with two or more units when the first containment inspection for each unit occurs several years apart.

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The date of the first examination of concrete may be used to determine the 5-year schedule for subsequent examinations subject to the provisions of IWL-2410, and the subsequent examination dates need not comply with the requirements of IWL-2410(a) or IWL-2410(b).

If you require additional information please contact me at (630) 657-2800.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. A. Ainger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

K. A. Ainger  
Director – Licensing  
Mid-West Regional Operating Group