

MAR 25 2002



LRN-02-0110

Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

COMMENTS ON DRAFT GUIDANCE

DG-1091, Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1 (Federal Register Vol. 66, No. 249, pp. 67335-67336, dated December 28, 2001).

This letter is being submitted in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request for public input to the referenced Federal Register Notice. The draft guides all pertain to licensees' use of Code Cases of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, and the guides are being developed to provide updated guidance on the use of Code Cases. Code Cases provide alternatives that have been developed and approved by ASME or they explain the intent of existing Code requirements.

Draft Regulatory Guide DG-1091, "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1", is the proposed Revision 13 of Regulatory Guide 1.147, which provides guidance that is acceptable to the NRC staff for licensees on the use of ASME Section XI Code Cases.

Understanding that draft guides have not received complete staff approval and do not represent an official NRC staff position. PSEG Nuclear LLC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule and is pleased to submit attached comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Salamon", written over the word "for".

G. Salamon
Manager – Nuclear Safety and Licensing

Attachment: 10CFR50.55a, "Codes and Standards" Proposed Rule Comments

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**10CFR50.55a, "Codes and Standards" Proposed Rule
Comments on DG-1091,
Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1**

Code Case N-532:

It appears that our current Code Case N-532 requirements for Owner Activity Reports (OAR) will be modified to require a 90-day submittal requirement. The NRC has previously recognized that there is no requirement prescribed by the Code Case to submit to them or identify a time period to complete. This is consistent with NRC Letter SECY-94-093, dated April 1, 1994, which provided the NRC's recommendation to eliminate the need to submit Inservice Inspection Summary Reports to the NRC following each refueling outage. We have not submitted a report to the NRC since 2R11 at Salem because N-532 does not require such.

The change proposed for use of the Code Case by the draft Regulatory Guide presents an undue hardship for PSEG Nuclear due to the simultaneous need for focusing attention upon outage preparations, program maintenance, and other ISI administrative activities and is inconsistent with the previously cited staff positions.

Recommend:

Delete requirement for OAR 90-day submittal to the NRC and identify a requirement to complete the report in 120-days and have it available for review on site. This is a similar methodology to what the NRC imposed in the last rulemaking for IWE/IWL.

Code Cases N-533-1 and N-616

The NRC is maintaining steadfast in its position of these Code Cases to maintain a 4-hour hold time when performing pressure testing prior to a VT2 examination. Currently, it takes several hours to bring system up to required pressure and temperatures to place it into operating service conditions. Considerations for allowing the system to be in service for greater than four (4) hours without actually imposing a 4-hour hold time would significantly reduce the time needed until exams could be completed.

Recommend:

Allow systems to be placed in service and operating for at least four (4) hours prior to performing a VT2 examination rather than establishing a 4-hour hold time after reaching pressure and temperature.

**10CFR50.55a, "Codes and Standards" Proposed Rule
Comments on DG-1091,
Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1**

Code Case N-460:

Code Case N-460 states that obtained coverage greater than 90% is equivalent to 100%; however, where access is restricted to only one side for the purposes of examination, practically all of the austenitic stainless steel pipe-to-valve, or pipe-to-tee configurations cannot credit any coverage on the opposite side of the weld. To that end we currently are forced to take credit for 50% coverage and we compensate by submitting a relief request at the end of the interval. Considerations should be made for deleting the requirement to submit for relief from Code coverage for welds fitting these descriptions.

Recommend:

Allow single side austenitic stainless steel pipe-to-valve and pipe-to-tee type configurations, where access is restricted to only one side for the purposes of examination. If credit cannot be taken for any coverage on the opposite side of the weld then declare credit for 50% coverage and do not submit for NRC relief.