



Serial: RNP-RA/02-0171

NOV 06 2002

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261/LICENSE NO. DPR-23

RELIEF REQUEST NO. 18 REGARDING EXAMINATION OF
THE REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION CANOPY SEAL
WELD REPAIRS FOR THE FOURTH TEN-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letters dated October 30, 2002, and November 5, 2002, H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (HBRSEP), Unit No. 2, requested relief from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code requirements for the Fourth Ten-Year Inservice Inspection (ISI) Interval. Specifically, Relief Request No. 18 proposed the performance of enhanced visual examinations as an alternative to surface examinations for repair of canopy seal welds on three reactor pressure vessel head penetrations. The relief was requested on the basis that the Code-required examinations would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

During a conference call between the NRC staff and HBRSEP, Unit No. 2, on November 5, 2002, the NRC staff indicated verbal approval of the requested relief.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

C. T. Baucom
Supervisor - Licensing and Regulatory Programs

CAC/cac

c: Mr. L. A. Reyes, NRC, Region II
Mr. R. Subbaratnam, NRC, NRR
NRC Resident Inspector, HBRSEP

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