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SSINS No.: 6835
IN 86-21

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

March 31, 1986

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 86-21: RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ACCREDITATION
PROGRAM FOR N STAMP HOLDERS

Addressees:

All nuclear power facilities holding an operating license (OL) or a construction permit (CP) and all recipients of NUREG-0040 (white book).

Purpose:

This information notice is provided to licensees, construction permit holders, and vendors to inform them of the NRC's recognition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Accreditation Program for holders of N, NPT, NA, and NV stamps and Certificates of Authorization. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Discussion:

In March 1981, representatives of the NRC, ASME, and the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NB) signed an Exchange of Correspondence that outlined an agreement to work toward establishing a single set of quality requirements and recognition by the NRC of ASME's Accreditation Program for N, NA, NPT, and NV stamps and the associated Certificates of Authorization. Quality System Certificates issued to Material Manufacturers (MM) and Material Suppliers (MS) are excluded from this recognition. The primary reasons for developing the Exchange of Correspondence were to eliminate overlapping requirements and to allow NRC licensees and their subcontractors to use the results of the ASME/NB nuclear accreditation and inspection system as an acceptable method for satisfying NRC requirements for evaluating the programmatic adequacy of their suppliers' documented quality assurance (QA) programs.

In a meeting on December 10, 1985, representatives of the NRC, NB, and ASME agreed that based on the requirements contained in the 1986 Edition of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code all of the conditions established in the Exchange of Correspondence as prerequisites for NRC recognition of the Accreditation Program had been met. On this basis, the NRC has sent letters (see attached) to the National Board and ASME recognizing the holding of an

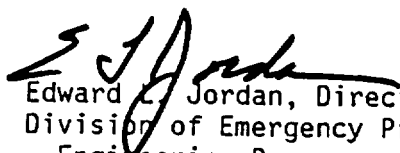
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ASME N, NA, NPT or NV Certificate of Authorization as evidence that the holder of the Certificate of Authorization has a documented QA program that meets the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR 50. In accordance with the Exchange of Correspondence, the NRC will make the appropriate changes to Regulatory Guides 1.28 and 1.33 in the next revision. Licensees and their subcontractors, when assessing whether a potential supplier has an acceptable documented QA program, may rely on the fact that ASME has surveyed the supplier and issued a Certificate of Authorization of appropriate scope and for the desired location without performing any additional evaluation of the supplier's QA program.

Licensees and construction permit holders that take credit for the ASME Accreditation Program may have to revise their QA Program. They are reminded that 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3) and 50.55(f)(3) set forth the requirements for making changes to QA programs.

It should be noted that NRC's recognition applies only to the programmatic aspects of the ASME Accreditation Program. Licensees, construction permit holders, and their subcontractors are still responsible for ensuring that the supplier is effectively implementing the approved QA program.

No specific action or response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Regional Administrator of the appropriate NRC regional office or the technical contact listed below.


Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness and
Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contacts: E. T. Baker, IE
301-492-4874

G. G. Zech, IE
301-492-9663

Attachments:

1. Letter to ASME
2. List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D C 20555

Attachment 1
IN 86-21
March 31, 1986

March 18, 1986

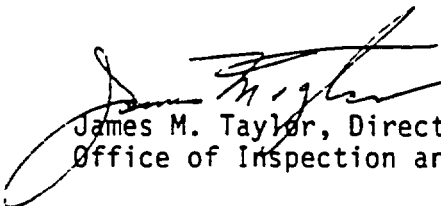
Mr. Melvin R. Green, Managing Director
Codes and Standards
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
345 East 47th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Green:

SUBJECT: NRC ENDORSEMENT OF ASME'S ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

At the December 10, 1985 meeting of the NRC/ASME/NB Coordinating Committee it was agreed that all conditions established in the Exchange of Correspondence as prerequisites for NRC recognition and endorsement of the ASME Accreditation Program had been met. At that meeting it was also agreed that the NRC would publish an information notice communicating the NRC's recognition and endorsement of the Accreditation Program. Enclosed is a copy of the information notice which is being sent to all licensees and to other parties on the information notice distribution list.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:
Information Notice



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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D C 20555

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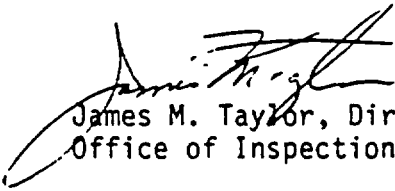
Mr. Donald J. McDonald, Executive Director
National Board of Boiler & Pressure Vessel
Inspectors
1055 Crapper Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Dear Mr. McDonald:

SUBJECT: NRC ENDORSEMENT OF ASME'S ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

At the December 10, 1985 meeting of the NRC/ASME/NB Coordinating Committee it was agreed that all conditions established in the Exchange of Correspondence as prerequisites for NRC recognition and endorsement of the ASME Accreditation Program had been met. At that meeting it was also agreed that the NRC would publish an information notice communicating the NRC's recognition and endorsement of the Accreditation Program. Enclosed is a copy of the information notice which is being sent to all licensees and to other parties on the information notice distribution list.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:
Information Notice

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
86-20	Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scaling Factors, 10 CFR Part 61	3/28/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-19	Reactor Coolant Pump Shaft Failure At Crystal River	3/21/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-18	NRC On-Scene Response During A Major Emergency	3/26/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-17	Update Of Failure Of Automatic Sprinkler System Valves To Operate	3/24/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-16	Failures To Identify Containment Leakage Due To Inadequate Local Testing Of BWR Vacuum Relief System Valves	3/11/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-15	Loss Of Offsite Power Caused By Problems In Fiber Optics Systems	3/10/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-14	PWR Auxiliary Feedwater Pump Turbine Control Problems	3/10/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-13	Standby Liquid Control System Squib Valves Failure To Fire	2/21/86	All BWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-12	Target Rock Two-Stage SRV Setpoint Drift	2/25/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-11	Inadequate Service Water Protection Against Core Melt Frequency	2/25/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit