

A. 25

From: Steve O'Connor, NMSS/SFPO
To: Paul Narbut; Ross Landsman -NMSS/SFPO
Date: 11/2/01 12:43 PM
Subject: Re: Holtec MPC Confinement Weld

This could possibly be a 72.11 (50.9 equivalent) issue if it appears that Holtec did not provide complete and accurate info to our inspectors when requested.

I spoke to Southern Co. this morning and they told me that Holtec is preparing a position paper to send to the cask users explaining why they believe the weld meets the ASME Code. The licensee told me that the Holtec Users Group will be reviewing position paper next week.

Steve

>>> Ross Landsman 11/01/01 01:39PM >>>

Paul, isn't it nice that they told the NRC (you) during the inspection last month at Holtec? Is this a 50.9 issue? Holtec knew about it for five months and has been arguing with Trojan.

>>> Steve O'Connor 11/01 11:39 AM >>>

FYI -

Ross Landsman (Region I) was at Dresden when Plant Hatch called to discuss a weld issue with the Holtec casks (7 loaded at Hatch, 9 loaded at Dresden). Ross called me to inform me of what he had heard and asked me to follow up on the issue. I called Hatch to get more details on the weld issue. This is what they told me (Hatch only found out about the issue a couple of days ago):

Trojan hired a code expert to review the entire Holtec design prior to submitting the license amendment. Several months ago, the reviewer identified that the inner circumferential weld for the bottom plate to the MPC shell was not shown as a Code-weld in the FSAR. This weld is an MPC confinement boundary. However, the CoC Tech Specs do not identify it as an exception. The TS states that the MPC enclosure vessel will be fabricated in accordance with ASME Section III, Subsection NB "to the maximum extent practicable." Holtec told its users that they believe the TS gives them sufficient discretion to not meet the Code for this weld.

The Holtec Users Group is working with Holtec to resolve the issue and they are looking at what steps to take next. I will continue to follow this issue with the Holtec users (Hatch, Dresden). We may need to talk to Holtec about this in a conference call to get some more specifics.

Please note that Fitzpatrick is performing dry runs this week and plans to load on 11/02/01. This may cause some delays in their loading plans.

This is a new issue and was not discussed with our inspectors during the recent inspection. However, Holtec has known about this for several months now.

I will keep you posted as I hear anything,

Steve

CC: B. Jennifer Davis; Bruce Jorgensen ; Charles Miller; E. William Brach; Earl Easton; Edward McAlpine; Edwin Gray; Jack Guttman; Kenneth Kolaczyk; Lawrence Doerflein; M. Wayne Hodges; Vincent Everett; William Gloersen

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