

DEC 01 2004
LR-N04-0535



U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington D.C. 20555

RELIEF REQUEST HC-RR-I2-30
PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE
HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-57
DOCKET NO. 50-354

This letter requests NRC approval of PSEG Nuclear, LLC (PSEG) Relief Request HC-RR-I2-30, in support of the current Hope Creek refueling outage 12 (RF12) to complete an Inservice Inspection of the repair to the N2K Reactor Pressure Vessel Nozzle weld joint. This relief is necessary to support the preservice baseline exam and specifies the examination technique.

This request is submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and applies to the program required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(C) to implement ASME Section XI Appendix VIII, Supplement 11.

Relief is requested to use an alternative program for implementation of Supplement 11 requirements, as presented in Attachment 1, Relief Request HC-RR-I2-30. The alternative program will be implemented through the Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) program.

The industry has implemented a PDI program and has developed an alternative program to implement Supplement 11. The alternative program was generated from a PDI model prepared by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Attachment 2 provides a comparison of Supplement 11 and Code Case N-653 requirements, and the proposed alternative to Supplement 11 requirements.

The alternative program has been approved for several plants, including Quad Cities (TAC Nos. MB 3767 and MB 3768), Hatch (TAC Nos. MB 3875 and MB 3876), Brunswick (TAC Nos. MB 5631 and MB 5632), Fitzpatrick (TAC No MB 5037), Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (TAC No. MB 5372), and Pilgrim (TAC No. MC 0961).

A047

DEC 01 2004

The proposed alternative program follows the scope of Supplement 11, with the enhancements, clarifications, and refinements as approved by the ASME Code NDE Subcommittee and provides an acceptable level of quality and safety as required by 10CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i). Approval of this relief request is necessary for Hope Creek Generating Station to comply with 10CFR50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(C) and approval is requested by December 24, 2004.

There are no new commitments made in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael G. Mosier at (856) 339-5434.

Sincerely,



Christina L. Perino
Director – Licensing and Nuclear Safety

Attachments

1. Relief Request HC-RR-I2-30
2. Comparison of Supplement 11, ASME Code Case N-653, and Alternative Program

**C Mr. S. Collins, Administrator - Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406**

**Mr. D. Collins, Project Manager – Hope Creek/Salem
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 08C2
Washington, DC 20555-0001**

USNRC Senior Resident Inspector – Hope Creek (X24)

**Mr. K. Tosch
Manager IV
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering
P. O. Box 415
Trenton, NJ 08625**

**Hope Creek Generating Station,
Second 10-Year Interval
Relief Request No. HC-RR-I2-30**

SYSTEM/COMPONENT(S) FOR WHICH RELIEF IS REQUESTED

Class 1, Pressure Retaining Welds in piping, subject to ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, examination.

CODE REQUIREMENTS

The Code requirements for which relief is requested are all contained within Appendix VIII, Supplement 11. For example, paragraph 1.1(d)(1), requires that all base metal flaws be cracks. Paragraph 1.1(e)(1) requires that at least 20% but less than 40% of the flaws shall be oriented within ± 20 degrees of the pipe axial direction. Paragraph 1.1(e)(1) also requires that the rules of IWA-3300 shall be used to determine whether closely spaced flaws should be treated as single or multiple flaws. Paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(a)(1) requires that a base grading unit shall include at least 3 inches of the length of the overlaid weld. Paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(b)(1) requires that an overlay grading unit shall include the overlay material and the base metal-to-overlay interface of at least 6 square inches. The overlay grading unit shall be rectangular, with minimum dimensions of 2 inches. Paragraph 3.2(b) requires that all extensions of base metal cracking into the overlay material by at least 0.1 inch be reported as being intrusions into the overlay material.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) relief is requested to use the enclosed Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) Program, for implementation of Appendix VIII, Supplement 11 requirements.

BASIS FOR RELIEF

Paragraph 1.1(d)(1), requires that all base metal flaws be cracks. As illustrated below, implanting a crack requires excavation of the base material on at least one side of the flaw. While this may be satisfactory for ferritic materials, it does not produce a useable axial flaw in austenitic materials because the sound beam, which normally passes only through base material, must now travel through weld material on at least one side, producing an unrealistic flaw response. To resolve this issue, the PDI program revised this paragraph to allow use of alternative flaw mechanisms under controlled conditions. For example, alternative flaws shall be limited to when implantation of cracks precludes obtaining an effective ultrasonic response, flaws shall be semielliptical with a tip width of less than or equal to 0.002 inches, and at least 70 percent of the flaws in the detection and sizing test shall be cracks and the remainder shall be alternative flaws.



Relief is requested to allow closer spacing of flaws provided they don't interfere with detection or discrimination. The existing specimens used to date for qualification to the Tri-Party (NRC/BWROG/EPRI) agreement have a flaw population density greater than allowed by the current Code requirements. These samples have been used successfully for all previous qualifications under the Tri-Party agreement program.

To facilitate their use and provide continuity from the Tri-Party agreement program to Supplement 11, the PDI Program has merged the Tri-Party test specimens into their weld overlay program. For example:

- the requirement for using IWA-3300 for proximity flaw evaluation in paragraph 1.1(e)(1) was excluded. Instead, indications will be sized based on their individual merits;
- paragraph 1.1(d)(1) includes the statement that intentional overlay fabrication flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of the base metal flaws;
- paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(a)(1) was modified to require that a base metal grading unit include at least one inch of the length of the overlaid weld, rather than three inches;
- paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(a)(3) was modified to require sufficient unflawed overlaid weld and base metal to exist on all sides of the grading unit to preclude interfering reflections from adjacent flaws, rather than the one inch requirement of Supplement 11;
- paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(b)(1) was modified to define an overlay fabrication grading unit as including the overlay material and the base metal-to-overlay interface for a length of at least one inch, rather than the six square inches requirement of Supplement 11;
- and paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(b)(2) states that overlay fabrication grading units designed to be unflawed shall be separated by unflawed overlay material-and unflawed base metal-to overlay interface for at least one inch at both ends, rather than around its entire perimeter.

Additionally, the requirement for axially oriented overlay fabrication flaws in paragraph 1.1(e)(1) was excluded from the PDI Program as an improbable scenario. Weld overlays are typically applied using automated gas tungsten arc welding techniques with the filler metal being applied in a circumferential direction. Because resultant fabrication induced discontinuities would also be expected to have major dimensions oriented in the circumferential direction, axial overlay fabrication flaws

are unrealistic. The PDI Program revised paragraph 2.0, allowing the overlay fabrication and base metal flaw tests to be performed separately. The requirement in paragraph 3.2(b) for reporting all extensions of cracking into the overlay is omitted from the PDI Program because it is redundant to the root mean square (RMS) calculations performed in paragraph 3.2(c) and its presence adds confusion and ambiguity to depth sizing as required by paragraph 3.2(c). This also makes the weld overlay program consistent with the Supplement 2 depth sizing criteria.

These changes are contained in Code Case N-653. A comparison between the 1998 Edition and 2000 Addenda of Supplement 11, Code Case N-653, and the PDI Program is enclosed as supporting documentation (Attachment 2). The first column identifies the Code requirements, while the second (middle) column identifies the changes made by the Code Case.

There are, however, some additional changes that were inadvertently omitted from the Code Case. The most important change is in paragraph 1.1(e)(2)(a)(1) where the phrase *"and base metal on both sides"* was inadvertently included in the description of a base metal grading unit. The PDI program intentionally excludes this requirement because some of the qualification samples include flaws on both sides of the weld. To avoid confusion, several instances of the term "cracks" or "cracking" were changed to the term "flaws" because of the use of alternative flaw mechanisms. Additionally, to avoid confusion, the overlay thickness tolerance contained in the last sentence of paragraph 1.1(b), was reworded and the phrase *"and the remainder shall be alternative flaws"* was added to the next to last sentence in paragraph 1.1(d)(1). The above changes are identified by bold print in the third column of Attachment 2.

ALTERNATIVE EXAMINATION

In lieu of the requirements of ASME Section XI, 1998 Edition, 2000 Addenda, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, the PDI Program shall be used. The following bases are provided for changes to the following paragraphs in Appendix VIII, supplement 11 examinations:

1.1(b) was changed from:

The specimen set must include at least one specimen with overlay thickness within -0.1 in. to +0.25 in. of the maximum nominal overlay thickness for which the procedure is applicable.

to:

The specimen set shall include specimens with overlays not thicker than 0.1 in. more than the minimum thickness, nor thinner than 0.25 in. of the maximum nominal overlay thickness for which the examination procedure is applicable.

Basis for the change: The revision to paragraph 1.1(b) was made solely to clarify the intent of the original wording.

1.1(e)(2) was changed from:

(2) Specimens shall be divided into base and over-lay grading units. Each specimen shall contain one or both types of grading units.

to:

(2) Specimens shall be divided into base metal and overlay fabrication grading units. Each specimen shall contain one or both types of grading units. Flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of other flaws.

Basis for the change: The terms base “metal” and overlay “fabrication” were applied for clarity and consistency throughout the Supplement. This change was made in several other areas. The proposed sample requirements allow a tighter mix of flaws and the last sentence was intended to prevent the location of flaws from precluding their detection.

1.1(e)(2)(a)(2) was changed from:

(a)(2) When base metal cracking penetrates into the overlay material, the base grading unit shall include the overlay metal within 1 in. of the crack location. This portion of the overlay material shall not be used as part of any overlay grading unit.

to:

(a)(2) When base metal flaws penetrate into the overlay material, the base metal grading unit shall not be used as part of any overlay fabrication grading unit.

Basis for the change: The terms base “metal” and overlay “fabrication” were applied for clarity and consistency throughout the Supplement. This change was made in several other areas. The PDI removed the reference to “cracking” because the sample sets may contain “alternative flaws”. The requirement that the base metal

grading unit include the overlay metal within 1 inch of the crack location is unnecessarily restrictive. It is PDI's intention to allow a tighter mix of flaws, provided they don't interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of other flaws.

1.1(e)(2)(b)(3) was changed from:

(b)(3) Detection sets shall be selected from Table VIII-S2-1. The minimum detection sample set is five flawed base grading units, ten unflawed base grading units, five flawed overlay grading units, and ten unflawed overlay grading units. For each type of grading unit, the set shall contain at least twice as many unflawed as flawed grading units.

to:

(b)(3) Detection sets shall be selected from Table VIII-S2-1. The minimum detection sample set is five flawed base metal grading units, ten unflawed base metal grading units, five flawed overlay fabrication grading units, and ten unflawed overlay fabrication grading units. For each type of grading unit, the set shall contain at least twice as many unflawed as flawed grading units. For initial procedure qualification, detection sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.

Basis for the change: The terms base "metal" and overlay "fabrication" were applied for clarity and consistency throughout the Supplement. This change was made in several other areas. The last two sentences were included to provide additional requirements for qualification of procedures and to make this Supplement consistent with the requirements in the other Supplements for procedure qualification.

1.1(f)(1) was changed from:

(1) The minimum number of flaws shall be ten. At least 30% of the flaws shall be overlay fabrication flaws. At least 40% of the flaws shall be cracks open to the inside surface.

to:

(1) The minimum number of flaws shall be ten. At least 30% of the flaws shall be overlay fabrication flaws. At least 40% of the flaws shall be open to the inside surface. Sizing sets shall contain a distribution of flaw dimensions to assess sizing capabilities. For initial procedure qualification, sizing sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.

Basis for the change: The PDI removed the reference to “cracks” in the 2nd sentence because the sample sets may contain “alternative flaws”. An additional requirement that the sizing sets contain a distribution of sizes is intended to challenge the procedure over a wide variety of flaw sizes. The last two sentences were again included to provide additional requirements for qualification of procedures and to make this Supplement consistent with the requirements in the other Supplements.

1.1(f)(3) was changed from:

- (2) Base metal cracking used for length sizing demonstrations shall be oriented circumferentially.

to:

- (3) Base metal flaws used for length sizing demonstrations shall be oriented circumferentially.

Basis for the change: The PDI removed the reference to “cracking” because the sample sets may contain “alternative flaws”.

1.1(f)(4) was changed from:

- (4) Depth sizing specimen sets shall include at least two distinct locations where cracking in the base metal extends into the overlay material by at least 0.1 in. in the through-wall direction.

to:

- (4) Depth sizing specimen sets shall include at least two distinct locations where a base metal flaw extends into the overlay material by at least 0.1 in. in the through-wall direction.

Basis for the change: The PDI removed the reference to “cracking” because the sample sets may contain “alternative flaws”.

2.1 was changed from:

Flawed and unflawed grading units shall be randomly mixed. Although the boundaries of specific grading units shall not be revealed to the candidate, the candidate shall be made aware of the type or types of grading units (base or overlay) that are present for each specimen.

to:

Flawed and unflawed grading units shall be randomly mixed. Although the boundaries of specific grading units shall not be revealed to the candidate, the candidate shall be made aware of the type or types of grading units (base metal or overlay fabrication) that are present for each specimen.

Basis for the change: The terms base “metal” and overlay “fabrication” were applied for clarity and consistency throughout the Supplement. This change was made in several other areas.

2.2(d) was changed from:

(d) For flaws in base grading units, the candidate shall estimate the length of that part of the flaw that is in the outer 25% of the base wall thickness.

to:

(d) For flaws in base metal grading units, the candidate shall estimate the length of that part of the flaw that is in the outer 25% of the base metal wall thickness.

Basis for the change: The term base “metal” was applied for clarity and consistency throughout the Supplement. This change was made in several other areas.

2.3 was changed from:

For the depth sizing test, 80% of the flaws shall be sized at a specific location on the surface of the specimen identified to the candidate. For the remaining flaws, the regions of each specimen containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.

to:

(a) The depth sizing test may be conducted separately or in conjunction with the detection test.

(b) When the depth sizing test is conducted in conjunction with the detection test and the detected flaws do not satisfy the requirements of 1.1(f), additional specimens shall be provided to the candidate. The regions containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.

- (c) For a separate depth sizing test, the regions of each specimen containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.

Basis for the change: Though not precluded in the original requirements, paragraph (a) specifically provides the latitude to conduct the sizing test separately or in conjunction with a detection test and was included for clarity. Though not precluded in the original requirements, paragraph (b) specifically allows providing additional specimens to the candidate who is successful during detection, but detected less than the 10 flaws required for sizing. It was again included for clarity. Rather than identify a specific location the PDI proposal in paragraph (c) is to only identify the region of the flaw. It is then incumbent on the examiner to determine the maximum depth by searching along the flaw's length. This is consistent with the way examinations are conducted in the field.

3.1 was changed from:

Examination procedures, equipment, and personnel are qualified for detection when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for both detection and false calls. The criteria shall be satisfied separately by the demonstration results for base grading units and for overlay grading units.

to:

a) Examination procedures are qualified for detection when:

- 1) All flaws within the scope of the procedure are detected and the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for false calls.

- (a) At least one successful personnel demonstration has been performed meeting the acceptance criteria defined in (b).

- (b) Examination equipment and personnel are qualified for detection when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for both detection and false calls.

- (c) The criteria in (a) and (b) shall be satisfied separately by the demonstration results for base metal grading units and for overlay fabrication grading units.

Basis for the change: The original requirements would allow qualification of procedures, equipment and personnel with only a personnel qualification. Paragraph (a)(1) includes the additional requirement that the procedure be capable of detecting all flaws within its scope. Paragraph (a)(1)(b) was included at the request of the NRC and basically states that a procedure cannot be qualified until a person is qualified to use it.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Approval of the alternative is requested for use during the second 10-year inservice inspection program only.

**ASME Section XI,
Appendix VIII, Supplement 11,
Code Case N-653 and PDI Program
Comparisons**

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
1.0 SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS		
Qualification test specimens shall meet the requirements listed herein, unless a set of specimens is designed to accommodate specific limitations stated in the scope of the examination procedure (e.g., pipe size, weld joint configuration, access limitations). The same specimens may be used to demonstrate both detection and sizing qualification.	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>
1.1 General. The specimen set shall conform to the following requirements.	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>
(a) Specimens shall have sufficient volume to minimize spurious reflections that may interfere with the interpretation process.	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No Change</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<p>(b) The specimen set shall consist of at least three specimens having different nominal pipe diameters and overlay thicknesses. They shall include the minimum and maximum nominal pipe diameters for which the examination procedure is applicable. Pipe diameters within a range of 0.9 to 1.5 times a nominal diameter shall be considered equivalent. If the procedure is applicable to pipe diameters of 24 in. or larger, the specimen set must include at least one specimen 24 in. or larger but need not include the maximum diameter. The specimen set must include at least one specimen with overlay thickness within -0.1 in. to +0.25 in. of the maximum nominal overlay thickness for which the procedure is applicable.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>(b) The specimen set shall consist of at least three specimens having different nominal pipe diameters and overlay thicknesses. They shall include the minimum and maximum nominal pipe diameters for which the examination procedure is applicable. Pipe diameters within a range of 0.9 to 1.5 times a nominal diameter shall be considered equivalent. If the procedure is applicable to pipe diameters of 24 in. or larger, the specimen set must include at least one specimen 24 in. or larger but need not include the maximum diameter. The specimen set shall include specimens with overlays not thicker than 0.1 in. more than the minimum thickness, nor thinner than 0.25 in. of the maximum nominal overlay thickness for which the examination procedure is applicable.</p>
<p>(c) The surface condition of at least two specimens shall approximate the roughest surface condition for which the examination procedure is applicable.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<i>(d) Flaw Conditions</i>		
<p><i>(1) Base metal flaws.</i> All flaws must be cracks in or near the butt weld heat-affected zone, open to the inside surface, and extending at least 75% through the base metal wall. Flaws may extend 100% through the base metal and into the overlay material; in this case, intentional overlay fabrication flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of the cracking. Specimens containing IGSCC shall be used when available.</p>	<p>(1) Base metal flaws. All flaws must be in or near the butt weld heat-affected zone, open to the inside surface, and extending at least 75% through the base metal wall. Intentional overlay fabrication flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of the cracking. Specimens containing IGSCC shall be used when available.</p> <p>(a) At least 70 percent of the flaws in the detection and sizing tests shall be cracks. Alternative flaw mechanisms, if used, shall provide crack-like reflective characteristics and shall be limited by the following:</p> <p>(1) Flaws shall be limited to when implantation of cracks precludes obtaining a realistic ultrasonic response.</p> <p>(2) Flaws shall be semielliptical with a tip width of less than or equal to 0.002 inches.</p>	<p>(1) Base metal flaws. All flaws must be in or near the butt weld heat-affected zone, open to the inside surface, and extending at least 75% through the base metal wall. Intentional overlay fabrication flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of the base metal flaws. Specimens containing IGSCC shall be used when available. At least 70 percent of the flaws in the detection and sizing tests shall be cracks and the remainder shall be alternative flaws. Alternative flaw mechanisms, if used, shall provide crack-like reflective characteristics and shall be limited by the following:</p> <p>(a) The use of Alternative flaws shall be limited to when the implantation of cracks produces spurious reflectors that are uncharacteristic of actual flaws.</p> <p>(b) Flaws shall be semielliptical with a tip width of less than or equal to 0.002 inches.</p>
<p><i>(2) Overlay fabrication flaws.</i> At least 40% of the flaws shall be non-crack fabrication flaws (e.g., sidewall lack of fusion or laminar lack of bond) in the overlay or the pipe-to-overlay interface. At least 20% of the flaws shall be cracks. The balance of the flaws shall be of either type.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
(e) Detection Specimens		
(1) At least 20% but less than 40% of the flaws shall be oriented within ± 20 deg. of the pipe axial direction. The remainder shall be oriented circumferentially. Flaws shall not be open to any surface to which the candidate has physical or visual access. The rules of IWA-3300 shall be used to determine whether closely spaced flaws should be treated as single or multiple flaws.	(1) At least 20% but less than 40% of the base metal flaws shall be oriented within ± 20 deg. of the pipe axial direction. The remainder shall be oriented circumferentially. Flaws shall not be open to any surface to which the candidate has physical or visual access.	(1) At least 20% but less than 40% of the base metal flaws shall be oriented within ± 20 deg. of the pipe axial direction. The remainder shall be oriented circumferentially. Flaws shall not be open to any surface to which the candidate has physical or visual access.
(2) Specimens shall be divided into base and over-lay grading units. Each specimen shall contain one or both types of grading units.	(2) Specimens shall be divided into base metal and overlay fabrication grading units. Each specimen shall contain one or both types of grading units. Flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of other flaws.	(2) Specimens shall be divided into base metal and overlay fabrication grading units. Each specimen shall contain one or both types of grading units. Flaws shall not interfere with ultrasonic detection or characterization of other flaws.
(a)(1) A base grading unit shall include at least 3 in. of the length of the overlaid weld. The base grading unit includes the outer 25% of the overlaid weld and base metal on both sides. The base grading unit shall not include the inner 75% of the overlaid weld and base metal overlay material, or base metal-to-overlay interface.	(a)(1) A base metal grading unit shall include at least 1 in. of the length of the overlaid weld. The base metal grading unit includes the outer 25% of the overlaid weld and base metal on both sides. The base metal grading unit shall not include the inner 75% of the overlaid weld and base metal overlay material, or base metal-to-overlay interface.	(a)(1) A base metal grading unit includes the overlay material and the outer 25% of the original overlaid weld. The base metal grading unit shall extend circumferentially for at least 1 in. and shall start at the weld centerline and be wide enough in the axial direction to encompass one half of the original weld crown and a minimum of 0.50" of the adjacent base material.

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<p>(a)(2) When base metal cracking penetrates into the overlay material, the base grading unit shall include the overlay metal within 1 in. of the crack location. This portion of the overlay material shall not be used as part of any overlay grading unit.</p>	<p>(a)(2) When base metal cracking penetrates into the overlay material, the base metal grading unit shall not be used as part of any overlay fabrication grading unit.</p>	<p>(a)(2) When base metal flaws penetrate into the overlay material, the base metal grading unit shall not be used as part of any overlay fabrication grading unit.</p>
<p>(a)(3) When a base grading unit is designed to be unflawed, at least 1 in. of unflawed overlaid weld and base metal shall exist on either side of the base grading unit. The segment of weld length used in one base grading unit shall not be used in another base grading unit. Base grading units need not be uniformly spaced around the specimen.</p>	<p>(a)(3) Sufficient unflawed overlaid weld and base metal shall exist on all sides of the grading unit to preclude interfering reflections from adjacent flaws.</p>	<p>(a)(3) Sufficient unflawed overlaid weld and base metal shall exist on all sides of the grading unit to preclude interfering reflections from adjacent flaws.</p>
<p>(b)(1) An overlay grading unit shall include the overlay material and the base metal-to-overlay interface of at least 6 sq. in. The overlay grading unit shall be rectangular, with minimum dimensions of 2 in.</p>	<p>(b)(1) An overlay fabrication grading unit shall include the overlay material and the base metal-to-overlay interface for a length of at least 1 in.</p>	<p>(b)(1) An overlay fabrication grading unit shall include the overlay material and the base metal-to-overlay interface for a length of at least 1 in.</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<p>(b)(2) An overlay grading unit designed to be unflawed shall be surrounded by unflawed overlay material and unflawed base metal-to-overlay interface for at least 1 in. around its entire perimeter. The specific area used in one overlay grading unit shall not be used in another overlay grading unit. Overlay grading units need not be spaced uniformly about the specimen.</p>	<p>(b)(2) Overlay fabrication grading units designed to be unflawed shall be separated by unflawed overlay material and unflawed base metal-to-overlay interface for at least 1 in. at both ends. Sufficient unflawed overlaid weld and base metal shall exist on both sides of the overlay fabrication grading unit to preclude interfering reflections from adjacent flaws. The specific area used in one overlay fabrication grading unit shall not be used in another overlay fabrication grading unit. Overlay fabrication grading units need not be spaced uniformly about the specimen.</p>	<p>(b)(2) Overlay fabrication grading units designed to be unflawed shall be separated by unflawed overlay material and unflawed base metal-to-overlay interface for at least 1 in. at both ends. Sufficient unflawed overlaid weld and base metal shall exist on both sides of the overlay fabrication grading unit to preclude interfering reflections from adjacent flaws. The specific area used in one overlay fabrication grading unit shall not be used in another overlay fabrication grading unit. Overlay fabrication grading units need not be spaced uniformly about the specimen.</p>
<p>(b)(3) Detection sets shall be selected from Table VIII-S2-1. The minimum detection sample set is five flawed base grading units, ten unflawed base grading units, five flawed overlay grading units, and ten unflawed overlay grading units. For each type of grading unit, the set shall contain at least twice as many unflawed as flawed grading units.</p>	<p>(b)(3) Detection sets shall be selected from Table VIII-S2-1. The minimum detection sample set is five flawed base metal grading units, ten unflawed base metal grading units, five flawed overlay fabrication grading units, and ten unflawed overlay fabrication grading units. For each type of grading unit, the set shall contain at least twice as many unflawed as flawed grading units. For initial procedure qualification, detection sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.</p>	<p>(b)(3) Detection sets shall be selected from Table VIII-S2-1. The minimum detection sample set is five flawed base metal grading units, ten unflawed base metal grading units, five flawed overlay fabrication grading units, and ten unflawed overlay fabrication grading units. For each type of grading unit, the set shall contain at least twice as many unflawed as flawed grading units. For initial procedure qualification, detection sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<i>(f) Sizing Specimen</i>		
(1) The minimum number of flaws shall be ten. At least 30% of the flaws shall be overlay fabrication flaws. At least 40% of the flaws shall be cracks open to the inside surface.	(1) The minimum number of flaws shall be ten. At least 30% of the flaws shall be overlay fabrication flaws. At least 40% of the flaws shall be cracks open to the inside surface. For initial procedure qualification, sizing sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.	(1) The minimum number of flaws shall be ten. At least 30% of the flaws shall be overlay fabrication flaws. At least 40% of the flaws shall be open to the inside surface. Sizing sets shall contain a distribution of flaw dimensions to assess sizing capabilities. For initial procedure qualification, sizing sets shall include the equivalent of three personnel qualification sets. To qualify new values of essential variables, at least one personnel qualification set is required.
(2) At least 20% but less than 40% of the flaws shall be oriented axially. The remainder shall be oriented circumferentially. Flaws shall not be open to any surface to which the candidate has physical or visual access.	No Change	No Change
(3) Base metal cracking used for length sizing demonstrations shall be oriented circumferentially.	No Change	(3) Base metal flaws used for length sizing demonstrations shall be oriented circumferentially.
(4) Depth sizing specimen sets shall include at least two distinct locations where cracking in the base metal extends into the overlay material by at least 0.1 in. in the through-wall direction.	No Change	(4) Depth sizing specimen sets shall include at least two distinct locations where a base metal flaw extends into the overlay material by at least 0.1 in. in the through-wall direction.

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
2.0 CONDUCT OF PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATION		
The specimen inside surface and identification shall be concealed from the candidate. All examinations shall be completed prior to grading the results and presenting the results to the candidate. Divulgence of particular specimen results or candidate viewing of unmasked specimens after the performance demonstration is prohibited.	The specimen inside surface and identification shall be concealed from the candidate. All examinations shall be completed prior to grading the results and presenting the results to the candidate. Divulgence of particular specimen results or candidate viewing of unmasked specimens after the performance demonstration is prohibited. The overlay fabrication flaw test and the base metal flaw test may be performed separately.	The specimen inside surface and identification shall be concealed from the candidate. All examinations shall be completed prior to grading the results and presenting the results to the candidate. Divulgence of particular specimen results or candidate viewing of unmasked specimens after the performance demonstration is prohibited. The overlay fabrication flaw test and the base metal flaw test may be performed separately.
2.1 Detection Test.		
Flawed and unflawed grading units shall be randomly mixed. Although the boundaries of specific grading units shall not be revealed to the candidate, the candidate shall be made aware of the type or types of grading units (base or overlay) that are present for each specimen.	Flawed and unflawed grading units shall be randomly mixed. Although the boundaries of specific grading units shall not be revealed to the candidate, the candidate shall be made aware of the type or types of grading units (base metal or overlay fabrication) that are present for each specimen.	Flawed and unflawed grading units shall be randomly mixed. Although the boundaries of specific grading units shall not be revealed to the candidate, the candidate shall be made aware of the type or types of grading units (base metal or overlay fabrication) that are present for each specimen.
2.2 Length Sizing Test		
(a) The length sizing test may be conducted separately or in conjunction with the detection test.	No Change	No Change

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
<p><i>(b)</i> When the length sizing test is conducted in conjunction with the detection test and the detected flaws do not satisfy the requirements of 1.1(f), additional specimens shall be provided to the candidate. The regions containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the length of the flaw in each region.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p><i>(c)</i> For a separate length sizing test, the regions of each specimen containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the length of the flaw in each region.</p>	<p>No Change</p>	<p>No Change</p>
<p><i>(d)</i> For flaws in base grading units, the candidate shall estimate the length of that part of the flaw that is in the outer 25% of the base wall thickness.</p>	<p><i>(d)</i> For flaws in base metal grading units, the candidate shall estimate the length of that part of the flaw that is in the outer 25% of the base metal wall thickness.</p>	<p><i>(d)</i> For flaws in base metal grading units, the candidate shall estimate the length of that part of the flaw that is in the outer 25% of the base metal wall thickness.</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
2.3 Depth Sizing Test.		
For the depth sizing test, 80% of the flaws shall be sized at a specific location on the surface of the specimen identified to the candidate. For the remaining flaws, the regions of each specimen containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.	The candidate shall determine the depth of the flaw in each grading unit.	(a) The depth sizing test may be conducted separately or in conjunction with the detection test.
		(b) When the depth sizing test is conducted in conjunction with the detection test and the detected flaws do not satisfy the requirements of 1.1(f), additional specimens shall be provided to the candidate. The regions containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.
		(c) For a separate depth sizing test, the regions of each specimen containing a flaw to be sized shall be identified to the candidate. The candidate shall determine the maximum depth of the flaw in each region.

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
3.0 ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA		
3.1 Detection Acceptance Criteria.		
<p>Examination procedures, equipment, and personnel are qualified for detection when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for both detection and false calls. The criteria shall be satisfied separately by the demonstration results for base grading units and for overlay grading units.</p>	<p>Examination procedures are qualified for detection when all flaws within the scope of the procedure are detected and the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for false calls. Examination equipment and personnel are qualified for detection when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for both detection and false calls. The criteria shall be satisfied separately by the demonstration results for base metal grading units and for overlay fabrication grading units.</p>	<p>a) Examination procedures are qualified for detection when; 1) All flaws within the scope of the procedure are detected and the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for false calls. (a) At least one successful personnel demonstration has been performed meeting the acceptance criteria defined in (b). (b) Examination equipment and personnel are qualified for detection when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the acceptance criteria of Table VIII-S2-1 for both detection and false calls.</p> <p>(c) The criteria in (a), (b) shall be satisfied separately by the demonstration results for base metal grading units and for overlay fabrication grading units.</p>

ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 11, Code Case N-653 and PDI Program Comparisons

ASME Section XI, Supplement 11 Qualification Requirements for Full Structural Overlaid Wrought Austenitic Piping Welds	Code Case N-653	PDI Program: The Proposed Alternative to Supplement 11 Requirements
3.2 Sizing Acceptance Criteria.		
Examination procedures, equipment, and personnel are qualified for sizing when the results of the performance demonstration satisfy the following criteria.	No Change	No Change
(a) The RMS error of the flaw length measurements, as compared to the true flaw lengths, is less than or equal to 0.75 inch. The length of base metal cracking is measured at the 75% through-base-metal position.	No Change	(a) The RMS error of the flaw length measurements, as compared to the true flaw lengths, is less than or equal to 0.75 inch. The length of base metal flaws is measured at the 75% through-base-metal position.
(b) All extensions of base metal cracking into the overlay material by at least 0.1 in. are reported as being intrusions into the overlay material.	This requirement is omitted.	This requirement is omitted.
(c) The RMS error of the flaw depth measurements, as compared to the true flaw depths, is less than or equal to 0.125 in.	(b) The RMS error of the flaw depth measurements, as compared to the true flaw depths, is less than or equal to 0.125 in.	(b) The RMS error of the flaw depth measurements, as compared to the true flaw depths, is less than or equal to 0.125 in.