

May 4, 2006

Mr. Dennis L. Koehl
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241-9516

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO
REQUEST TO USE SUBSEQUENT EDITION AND ADDENDA OF AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) CODE FOR INSERVICE
TESTING (TAC NOS. MC9783 AND MC9784)

Dear Mr. Koehl:

By letter dated January 20, 2006, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC, the licensee) submitted a request for approval to use portions of a later edition and addenda of the ASME Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) for the inservice testing (IST) program at Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PBNP). Specifically, approval was requested to apply the portions of the requirements of Subarticle ISTC-3540, "Manual Valves," of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code related to IST of manually operated valves. NMC requested approval through the end of the current (4th) IST interval, which ends on August 31, 2012, for Unit 1, and September 30, 2012, for Unit 2.

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed your request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for PBNP. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at Point Beach, subject to the limitations and modifications listed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), through the duration of the PBNP 4th IST intervals, which are scheduled to end on August 31, 2012, for Unit 1 and September 30, 2012, for Unit 2.

D. Koehl

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The detailed results of the NRC staff's review are provided in the enclosed safety evaluation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Mr. Carl F. Lyon of my staff at (301) 415-2296.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. Raghavan, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-266 and 50-301

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

D. Koehl

-2-

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO THE FOURTH 10-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE TESTING PROGRAM
REQUEST FOR RELIEF
NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 20, 2006 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML060380566), Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC, the licensee) submitted a request for approval to use portions of a later edition and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (OM Code) for the inservice testing (IST) program at Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PBNP). Specifically, approval was requested to apply the portions of the requirements of Subarticle ISTC-3540, "Manual Valves," of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code related to IST of manually operated valves. NMC requested approval through the end of the current (4th) IST interval, which ends on August 31, 2012, for Unit 1, and September 30, 2012, for Unit 2.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.55a, requires that IST of certain ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 pumps and valves be performed at 120-month (10-year) IST program intervals in accordance with the specified ASME Code incorporated by reference in the regulations, except where alternatives have been authorized or relief has been requested by the licensee and granted by the Commission pursuant to paragraphs (a)(3)(i), (a)(3)(ii), or (f)(6)(i) of 10 CFR 50.55a. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(ii), licensees are required to comply with the requirements of the latest edition and addenda of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in the regulations 12 months prior to the start of each 120-month IST program interval. In accordance with 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), IST of pumps and valves may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval. Portions of editions or addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions and addenda are met.

ENCLOSURE

The NRC's findings with respect to granting or denying the IST program request from NMC are given below:

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

3.1 Code Requirements

The applicable Code of record for PBNP is the ASME OM Code, 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda. This Code requires that active function manual valves be exercised on a quarterly basis.

3.2 Licensee's Basis for Requesting Relief

The requirement in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv) states that IST of pumps and valves may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to the limitations and modifications listed in Paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.55a, and subject to NRC approval. Portions of editions and addenda may be used, provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met.

3.3 Licensee's Proposed Alternative Testing

Portions of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code relate to the IST of manually operated valves. Federal Register Volume 67, Number 187, dated September 26, 2002 (67 FR 60520), incorporates by reference the 1997 Addenda, 1998 Edition, 1999 Addenda, and 2000 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for the IST programs in 10 CFR 50.55a(b).

Specifically, the requirements of ISTC-3540, "Manual Valves," 1999 Addenda state:

ISTC-3540 Manual Valves. Manual valves shall be full-stroke exercised at least once every 5 years, except where adverse conditions may require the valve to be tested more frequently to ensure operational readiness. Any increased testing frequency shall be specified by the owner. The valve shall exhibit the required change of obturator position.

The licensee proposes to apply ISTC-3540 to all active function manual valves in the IST program at PBNP. In accordance with the limitation imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), manual valves must be exercised on a 2-year interval rather than 5-year interval specified in paragraph ISTC-3540 of the 1999 Addenda through the latest edition and addenda, provided that adverse conditions do not require more frequent testing. The licensee states that adverse conditions have not been observed for manual valves within the scope of the IST program. Therefore, a test exercise interval of less than 2 years would not be required.

3.4 NRC Staff Evaluation

The licensee has requested approval to exercise manual valves in accordance with Subarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. The licensee also further acknowledged the requirement to test the manual valves consistent with the limitation imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), on a 2-year interval rather than the 5-year interval specified in the

2001 Edition and 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code, provided that adverse conditions (as defined in subsection ISTC) do not require more frequent testing. The NRC staff has identified no additional related requirements in the specified ASME Code Edition and Addenda that need to be met in order to implement the requested Subarticle ISTC-3540.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff has reviewed the request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for PBNP. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subarticle ISTC-3540 of the 1999 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at PBNP, subject to the limitations and modifications listed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), through the duration of the PBNP 4th IST intervals, which are scheduled to end on August 31, 2012, for Unit 1, and September 30, 2012, for Unit 2.

Principal Contributor: O. Yee

Date: May 4, 2006

Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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November 2005