

June 8, 2006

Mr. James H. Lash
Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
P.O. Box 4
Shippingport, PA 15077

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (BVPS-1 AND 2) -
INSERVICE INSPECTION (ISI) PROGRAM, REQUEST FOR RELIEF NO.
BV3-RV-1 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) (TAC NOS.
MD1135 AND MD1136)

Dear Mr. Lash:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has evaluated your April 7, 2006, subject request for relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, to perform an alternative remote mechanized examination for reactor vessel shell-to-flange welds during the third 10-year ISI interval for BVPS-1 and the second 10-year ISI interval for BVPS-2. The NRC staff requires the additional information contained in the enclosed RAI in order to complete its review. As discussed with your staff, we request you respond no later than July 14, 2006, in order for the NRC staff to complete its review per your requested schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1402.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Timothy G. Colburn, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-334 and 50-412

Enclosure:
RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

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ACCESSION NO. ML061560081

*Input received. No substantive changes made.

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DATE	6/07/06	6/08/06	06/02/06	6/08/06

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY (FENOC)

10-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE INSPECTION (ISI) PROGRAMS

REQUEST FOR RELIEF NO. BV3-RV-1

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (BVPS-1 AND 2)

DOCKET NOS. 50-334 AND 50-412

1.0 SCOPE

By letter dated April 7, 2006, FENOC (the licensee) submitted Relief Request No. BV3-RV-1, from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, non-destructive examination (NDE) requirements for BVPS-1 and 2.

The request for relief is for the third 10-year ISI interval for BVPS-1 and second 10-year ISI interval for BVPS-2, in which BVPS-1 and 2 have adopted the 1989 Edition no Addenda of the ASME Code, Sections XI and V as the examination code of record.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the licensee has requested relief from using the techniques of Section V, Article 4, as supplemented by Section XI, Appendix I, and augmented by Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.150, Revision 1, when performing volumetric examinations of the reactor vessel shell-to-flange welds.

The licensee stated in the subject request for relief that the prescriptive, amplitude-based ultrasonic examination techniques of Section V, Article 4, supplemented by Appendix I, and augmented by RG 1.150, Revision 1 (hereafter referred to as Article 4), are technically inferior to the performance-based techniques specified in the ASME Code 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda of Section IX, Appendix VIII, Supplements 4 and 6, as modified by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(xv), and demonstrated through the Electric Power Research Institute Performance Demonstration Initiative Program (Appendix VIII). Furthermore, the licensee states that performance-based techniques of Appendix VIII are required for all other reactor vessel shell weld examinations, having replaced the Article 4 techniques.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff reviewed the information submitted by the licensee, and based on this review, determined that further information is required to complete the evaluation.

2.0 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Please provide the interval between the last inspection and the proposed inspection schedule for both BVPS-1 and 2.

Enclosure

2. Please provide an analysis of round robin test results, in particular PISC II, to support the licensee's claim of greater sizing accuracy and defect sensitivity using performance-based tip diffraction techniques qualified by Appendix VIII, Supplements 4 and 6.

cc:

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