January 22, 2007

Mr. Christopher M. Crane
President and Chief Executive Officer
AmerGen Energy Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: THREE MILE ISLAND, UNIT 1 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RELIEF REQUEST TO UTILIZE ASME CODE CASE N-659. (TAC NO. MD3170)

Dear Mr. Crane:

By letter dated September 28, 2006 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML062720058), AmerGen Energy Company (the licensee) requested relief from certain American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) requirements at Three Mile Island, Unit 1. Specifically, the licensee has requested to use an alternative ultrasonic examination method in lieu of the radiographic examination required by the ASME Code, Section III, Subarticle NC-5222. Additionally, the licensee requested relief from the required examination to include 100% of the volume of the entire weld.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the information provided in the relief request and has identified the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). This RAI was discussed with Thomas Loomis of your staff on January 8, 2007, and it was agreed that your response would be provided within 30 days from the date of this letter.

Please contact me at 301-415-1447, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Farideh E. Saba, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-2
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-289

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1

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Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THREE MILE ISLAND, UNIT 1 RELIEF REQUEST

TO UTILIZE ASME CODE CASE N-659

TAC NO. MD3170

DOCKET NO. 50-289

1. By letter dated September 28, 2006, AmerGen Energy Company requested to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) Case N-659, "Use of Ultrasonic Examination in Lieu of Radiography for Weld Examination Section III, Division 1". The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed the ASME Code Case N-659 for endorsement as conditionally acceptable in draft Regulatory Guide DG-1134, "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1". Proposed conditions were provided in the *Federal Register* of October 27, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 208), Pages 62948-62949. In order for the NRC staff to continue its review, please discuss how the proposed NRC conditions will be addressed for Three Mile Island, Unit 1.

2. ASME Code Case N-659 states that the examination area shall include 100% of the volume of the entire weld, plus 0.5T of each side of the welds, where T is the thickness of the weld. After reviewing figures 2 and 3 of your submittal, the NRC staff is unclear as to what is the exact weld area that will not be examined. Please provide the following:

   a) Please discuss the computer modeling, if any, used to determine the appropriate transducer size and angles for maximum volume coverage. Evaluate if using different shapes can increase the coverage.

   b) Please discuss other non-destructive methods (such as, surface examination and/or eddy current) that were considered for improving the volume coverage and can get some depth as well. Explain whether and how the volume coverage can be improved.