

March 3, 2008

Mr. Stewart B. Minahan
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RE: RELIEF REQUEST RI-35 (TAC NO. MD8025)

Dear Mr. Minahan:

By application dated January 30, 2008, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD, the licensee) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff authorization to use an alternative to certain inservice inspection code requirements for the Cooper Nuclear Station. Specifically, Relief Request RI-35 proposed alternatives to the dissimilar metal weld repair requirements of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

The NRC staff has reviewed the information provided in your submittal and determined that additional information is required in order to complete its review. Please provide a response to the enclosed questions by March 21, 2008.

The NRC staff considers that timely responses to requests for additional information help ensure sufficient time is available for staff review and contribute toward the NRC's goal of efficient and effective use of staff resources. If circumstances result in the need to revise the requested response date, please contact me at (301) 415-2296.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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(*)memo dated

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Cooper Nuclear Station

(09/2007)

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OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RELATED TO RELIEF REQUEST RI-35

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-298

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) request for alternative RI-35 for the Cooper Nuclear Station and has determined that additional information is necessary to complete the review of its request for relief. Based on the staff's review, please provide a response which addresses the following request for additional information (RAI) questions.

1. The licensee has stated that the weld overlay of the dissimilar metal welds may require welding on more than 100 square inches of surface on the steel base material. The NRC does not normally approve any request wherein the actual area of the carbon or low-alloy steel material that will be welded on is over 300 square inches. What is the specific maximum area of the carbon or low-alloy steel material where the weld overlay will be applied? This should be stated in Relief Request RI-35 for each component to be overlaid. The relief request mentions 500 square inches, but not as the maximum that is to be welded on during this welding.
2. Provide the American Society of Mechanical Engineers SA or American Society for Testing and Materials material and grade or class of materials for each component to be overlaid.
3. Code Case N-638-4 is shown in the relief request as a basis for the design of the full structural weld overlay on page 4 of the relief request. It is also used as part of the basis for exceeding the 100-square-inch limitation. This code case has not been reviewed and accepted by the NRC. Therefore, please provide a response which removes references to the unapproved Code Case N-638-4 and provides an acceptable basis for your request.
4. The relief request states that full ultrasonic examination of the final weld surface and band area (1.5T width) will not be performed. How much of the final weld surface and band area will be examined using the ultrasonic method for each component shown on page 1 of the relief request?
5. Since full ultrasonic examination of the final weld surface and band area (1.5T width) as required by Code Case N-638-1 will not be performed, a much more complete explanation of the examinations that will be performed and the basis for these alternative examinations is required.