

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37401

5N 157B Lookout Place

APR 04 1990

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

Gentlemen:

In the Matter of
Tennessee Valley Authority

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Docket Nos. 50-259 50-390
50-260 50-391
50-296 50-438
50-327 50-439
50-328

**AUTHORIZATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) BOILER AND
PRESSURE VESSEL (B&PV) CODE CASE N-461**

Enclosed is a copy of ASME Code Case N-461, which was approved by ASME on November 30, 1988. TVA has reviewed the applications of the code case and plans to apply it for the determination of the alternative wall thicknesses or pipe schedules to be used in selection of calibration blocks in accordance with Section XI, Division 1, III-3410. Use of this code case would allow larger calibration block tolerances over a wider range of material thicknesses for the same pipe diameter and still achieve acceptable examination results. In addition, there would be a reduction in the number of calibration blocks to be procured. NRC concurrence for use of this code case by TVA is requested by May 22, 1990. If you have any further questions, please telephone F. L. Ginn at (615) 751-7667.

Very truly yours,

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

M. J. Ray Jr.
E. G. Wallace, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure
cc: See page 2

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Enclosure:

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CASES OF ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE

Approval Date: November 30, 1988

*See Numeric Index for expiration
and any reaffirmation dates.*

Case N-461

Alternative Rules for Piping Calibration Block

Thickness

Section XI, Division 1

Inquiry: When selecting calibration blocks in accordance with Section XI, Division 1, III-3410, what alternative wall thicknesses or pipe schedules may be used?

Reply: It is the opinion of the Committee that an calibration block thickness may be used that is within $\pm 25\%$ of the pipe wall thickness to be examined.