

July 01, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Benjamin G. Beasley, Chief
Operating Experience
and Generic Issues Branch
Division of Risk Analysis
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief **/RA/**
Engineering Mechanics Branch 1 and 2
Division of Engineering
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF GENERIC SAFETY ISSUES: ISSUE 89,
STIFF PIPE CLAMPS

Generic Issue (GI) - 89 identified the concern that certain stiff pipe clamps impose additional stresses on piping systems resulting in a greater probability of pipe failure. The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) indicated that the GI-89 requirements are not justifiable for backfit for existing plants. However, RES proposed that the GI-89 requirements should be considered in regulatory guidance (RG) for future plants. Subsequently, RES requested the Office of New Reactor (NRO) staff to provide the status for the use of GI-89, "Stiff Pipe Clamps" in new reactor designs.

The staff finds that RG - 1.130 "Service Limits and Loading Combinations for Class 1 Plate and Shell-Type Component Supports", RG - 1.124 "Service Limits and Loading Combinations for Class 1 Linear-Type Component Supports", and American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Section III, Subsection NF adequately provide the requirements and guidance for pipe clamp designs without additional guidance to address the GI-89 concerns. There is no conflict between RG-1.130, RG-1.124, ASME Section III, Subsection NF and GI-89. However, the staff found that, in addition to the existing RG, GI-89 concerns should be included in Standard Review Plan (SRP) Sections 3.9.3 and 3.12 for information for consideration during future design previews.

The Engineering Mechanics Branch will include a discussion of the concern and reference to GI-89 in the next revision of SRP Sections 3.9.3 and 3.12. This will better ensure that future reviewers consider GI-89 concerns in their design reviews.

CONTACT: Tuan Le, NRO/DE/EMB 1
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