



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 15, 2010

LICENSEE: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

FACILITY: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON
JUNE 2, 2010, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
AND ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC., CONCERNING THE PILGRIM
NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
(TAC NO. MC9669)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the staff) and representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., (the applicant) held a telephone conference call on June 2, 2010, to discuss the Small-Bore Piping Aging Management Program (AMP) concerning the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim), license renewal application.

A supplemental review of One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping Program in the June 2007, Safety Evaluation Report for Pilgrim revealed that the examination of socket welds was not adequately addressed and that the inspection only includes VT-2 (visual) and surface examinations. This is not consistent with the recommendation of Generic Aging Lessons Learned AMP XI.M.35, "One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping."

Enclosure 1 provides a listing of the participants and Enclosure 2 includes the draft request for additional information discussed with the applicant, including a brief description on the status of the item.

The applicant had an opportunity to comment on this summary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa M. Regner", is positioned above the typed name.

Lisa M. Regner, Sr. Project Manager
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosures:
As stated

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**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
JUNE 2, 2010**

PARTICIPANTS

Lisa Regner
Steve Jones
Steve Bethay
Joe Lynch
Fred Mogolesko
Dave Heard
Paul Smith
Rich Pardee
Dave Lach
Dave King

AFFILIATIONS

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
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Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy)
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**DRAFT REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

JUNE 2, 2010

DRAFT RAI xxxx – Small-Bore Piping Socket Welds

Background:

During the past year, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) has worked extensively with license renewal applicants, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and the industry on socket weld examination issues for license renewal. The efforts also include review of operating experience of socket welds and various techniques for examination of socket welds.

The staff finds that volumetric examination of Class 1 small-bore piping socket welds recommended by the Generic Aging Lessons Learned (GALL) Report aging management program (AMP), XI.M.35, "One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping" is warranted based on the operating experience review. It provides additional assurance that either the aging of small-bore American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Class 1 piping is not occurring or that the aging is insignificant.

The staff noted that the VT-2 examination, as ASME Section XI Code currently requires on socket welds, is a leakage detection examination and not adequate for license renewal aging management. Since cracking of socket welds, in most cases, starts from the inside surface, by the time a flaw is detected by VT-2 or a surface examination, the subject component would have already failed and lost its intended function. This is the reason the GALL Report AMP recommends one-time volumetric examinations of small-bore piping, including socket welds. Examination of the external surface is not an adequate way to detect cracks initiating on the interior surface of a pipe.

The staff also finds that several demonstrated ultrasonic testing (UT) techniques have been developed and used by the nuclear industry. They provide an adequate result in the examination of socket welds. Recently developed and improved techniques have increased the capability to differentiate construction flaws and service induced flaws. Measures have been taken to minimize the possibility of false-positive indications. The GALL Report also recognizes additional options available to applicants for socket weld examinations including performing available industry-demonstrated UT, opportunistic destructive examinations, or Performance Demonstration Initiative qualified UT, when available.

Issue:

A supplemental review of the One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping Program for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station revealed that the examination of socket welds was not adequately addressed and that the inspections only include VT-2 and surface examinations. This is not consistent with the recommendation of the GALL Report.

ENCLOSURE 2

Request:

Explain how the One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping Program will adequately manage the aging of socket welds given recent industry operating experience.

Discussion:

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the applicant) explained that question is clear. The applicant will submit a response addressing the staff's concern.

October 15, 2010

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FACILITY: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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/RA/

Lisa M. Regner, Sr. Project Manager
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

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As stated

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OFFICE	PM:RPB2:DLR	LA:RPOB:DLR	BC:RPB2:DLR	PM:RPB2:DLR
NAME	LRegner	YEdmonds	DWrona	LRegner
DATE	10/04/10	9/21/10	10/15/10	10/15/10

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Memorandum to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. from L. Regner dated October 15, 2010

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON
MAY 25, 2010, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
AND ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC., CONCERNING THE ANNUAL
UPDATE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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