

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Beltz, Terry
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2012 7:51 AM
To: Michael.Millen@nexteraenergy.com
Cc: William.Hennessy@nexteraenergy.com; Cumblidge, Stephen
Subject: Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 - Acceptance Review re: Relief Request 1-RR-4 (TAC No. ME9905)

Mr. Millen

By letter dated November 9, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12318A125), NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC (NextEra, the licensee) submitted a relief request for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1. The proposed relief request would grant relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (B&PV Code), Section XI, 2007 Edition with 2008 Addenda for the re-examination of the Unit 1 reactor pressure vessel "A" inlet nozzle weld RC-32-MRCL-AIII-03.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that supplemental information is required to enable the staff to make an independent assessment regarding acceptability of the proposed relief request. Specifically, the proposed relief request relates to a topic that has been the subject of significant review by the NRC staff and industry groups in the past year. While NextEra's proposed alternative is similar to alternatives granted in previous relief requests, the alternative is no longer supported by the NRC staff. In order to make the application complete, the NRC staff requests that NextEra supplement its November 9, 2012, application to follow the example described in the Safety Evaluation for the McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2, dated September 24, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12258A363). This will enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review.

Please provide the requested information by December 21, 2012. If the information responsive to the NRC staff's request is not received by this date, the application may not be accepted for review pursuant to 10 CFR 2.101, and review activities may cease on the proposed application. If the application is subsequently accepted for review, you will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

The information requested and associated time frame in this letter were discussed with Mr. William Hennessy of your staff on November 21, 2012. During our conversation, Mr. Hennessy stated that NextEra had already prepared a draft supplemental response, and may seek a phone call with the NRC staff prior to submittal.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Terry A. Beltz, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
(301) 415-3049
Terry.Beltz@nrc.gov*

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Recipients:

"William.Hennessy@nexteraenergy.com" <William.Hennessy@nexteraenergy.com>

Tracking Status: None

"Cumblidge, Stephen" <Stephen.Cumblidge@nrc.gov>

Tracking Status: None

"Michael.Millen@nexteraenergy.com" <Michael.Millen@nexteraenergy.com>

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